

## DISCIPLINING CHILDREN

In today's society, there has arisen an aversion to properly disciplining children. Spanking or any form of physical discipline is shunned and called abusive. This is a result of the child abuse that has taken place in this country, some of it under the guise of discipline. In response to this problem, there has been an over reaction to the point that our society, in general, strongly opposes any thing that looks like physical punishment.

However, the Bible is clear that discipline is both good and necessary - and that lack of punishment is a sign of a lack of love. The absence of punishment or discipline indicates the parents don't care enough or want to take the time to make sure a child learns to do the right thing; in other words, the child isn't worth it.

Hebrews 12:8

*“But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.”*

Proverbs 13:24

*“He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him diligently.”*

Today, there is uproar anytime a child has indications on his body that shows he may have received a spanking (red marks, etc). Parents can even lose custody of their children. This is not in accordance with God's way (Isaiah 55: 8-9). He encourages us to strongly discipline, if necessary, to turn a child from his/her rebellious ways.

Proverbs 22:15

*“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of discipline will remove it far from him.”*

Proverbs 23:13-14

*“Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you beat him with the rod, he will not die.*

*You shall beat him with the rod, and deliver his soul from Sheol.”*

Proverbs 29:15

*“The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.”*

We must be very careful when disciplining to make sure the child understands what they did was wrong/bad, but they are not bad. It should be carefully explained what exactly they did wrong and why it was wrong. And, after the discipline has been applied, they should be assured that you love them, which is the reason you applied discipline.