Discipline in the Home

Intro: Discipline has to do with the total training of a person, to form the behavior of someone by discipline and instruction. Thus, there are two aspects of this study—Instruction and Restraining. But before we notice this we should observe that this is correctly titled *Discipline in the Home*, not discipline by the government.

I. **Parents Have the God-Given Responsibility of Training Children.**

A. **Parents are to do this.**
   1. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
      a. Nurture is “the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment). It also includes the training and care of the body.”
      b. Admonition is the “training by word,” whether of encouragement, or, if necessary, by reproof or remonstrance.”
   2. Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”
   3. Gen. 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”
   4. God has entrusted into parents care the training of their children and parents will give an account to God how they have fulfilled their responsibility.

B. **Many pass this responsibility to others.**
   1. Some parents try to pass off the responsibility to the other parent. It is necessary to have both (husband and wife) working as a team (including corrective discipline).
   2. Parents try to pass this off to day-care centers, etc.
   3. Government is trying to take this responsibility away from parents.

II. **Instruction.**

A. **This needs to be broken down into two areas of study; Deu. 4:9** “Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons’ sons;”

B. **Word; Deu. 6:6-7** “And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”

C. **Example; 2 Cor. 3:2** “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”

III. **Restraining.**

A. **Some are teaching that any type of corporal punishment is evil.**
   2. Some go so far as to say that it is criminal, child abuse, inhumane, sexual abuse, etc.
   3. We do not endorse the abuse of people (any person, including children).
B. Yet, there are many studies that affirm the positive effects of spanking.
   1. “After surveying 1110 children between the ages of 4 and 11 for 5 years, Gunnoe found that, for children between the ages of 4 and 7,... children who were spanked were actually less aggressive than their pacifist-parented peers.” (Study performed by Majorie Gunnoe).
   2. In 1996 Robert Larzelere published the results of the best 35 studies on spanking out of 166 past studies. “He failed to find any convincing evidence that nonabusive spanking, as typically used by parents, damaged children....No other discipline technique—including time out and withdrawal of privileges—had more beneficial results for children under 13 than spanking, in terms of getting children to comply with the parents’ wishes.”
   3. Following Larzelere’s presentation at the American Academy of Pediatrics in 1996 conference organizers wrote in Pediatrics, “We must confess that we had a preconceived notion that corporal punishment, including spanking, was innately and always bad.”
   4. According to a 1997 poll: 63% of Americans approved of spanking. Recent polls demonstrate that more than % of pediatricians approved of parents spanking children in certain situations.

C. The Bible.
   1. Why would we listen to others.
      a. Dr. Spock, Dr. Laura, etc.; Jam. 3:15 “This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish”
      b. God’s Word is the only true way; Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”
   2. If we fail to practice (or take corrective discipline) then we will have problems in the church.
      a. The church must practice corrective discipline upon those who sin.
      b. God practices corrective discipline;
         (1) Heb. 12:5-11 “And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: 4For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. 5If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? 6But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. 7Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? 8For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. 9Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.”
         (2) He does this for our betterment, as parents are to do it for the betterment of their children.
            (a) Love is the motivation behind the discipline.
            (b) His punishment was always equal to the crime or disobedience, never excessive, always in proper proportion to the error.
3. The Bible teaches corrective or punitive discipline.
   a. Pro. 13:24 “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [promptly—NKJV].”
      (1) Do not dely punishment; Ecc. 8:11 “Because sentence against an evil work is not executed speedily, therefore the heart of the sons of men is fully set in them to do evil.”
      (2) Even if the punishment is in public.
   b. Pro. 19:18 “Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”
   c. Pro. 22:15 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”; Pro. 29:17 “Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.”
   d. Pro. 23:13-14 “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”
   e. Pro. 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”
      (1) Rod (in all these passages) is the Hebrew shebet which means a rod or stick for punishment.
      (2) Remember the young man from Ohio who was canned in Singapore for violating the law (punishment fit the crime). The father complained greatly about the punishment. Shortly after returning home he got into trouble again and was arrested.
      (3) Cannot wait till he is a youth (a teen) before starting.
      (4) When we pamper them (time-out, etc) they view us as equals and not as an authority figure.

4. Do not spank out of anger; Eph. 4:26 “Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath.”

5. Be consistent with the discipline.
   a. Once a rule is established, stick to it.
   b. Make the punishment equal to the crime.

Conclusion: Corrective discipline will work. God established it and expects parents to discipline their children.