

The Teleological Woodshed

I. Slide1 Announcements:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication (2nd) - Joel & Morgan Cox. *Kennedi Blayke*
- B. Slide3 Baby News - Congrat's to Z & C. Meet Harper James & Owen Scott.
- C. Slide4 Married Couples Conf - Sacred Promise. (read bulletin) *THIS* Fri/Sat.
- D. Slide5 Children at Risk mtg - today at 3pm. Conference recap.
- E. Note: Save the Dates, at bottom of Bulletin.

II. Intro:

- A. Regarding discipline: A little boy who wasn't getting good grades in school, made his teacher quite surprised. He tapped her on the shoulder and said, *I don't want to scare you, but my daddy says, if I don't get better grades...somebody is going to get a spanking!*
- B. Slide6 Rock climbing analogy. You cannot make your children *back-slid-proof* no matter how many years they live with you. But, what we can do is provide as many **hand and foot grips** as possible, & provide them w/as many **tools** as possible, so that they will not slide down life's slippery slope.
 1. Every **discipline** gives them, one more hand grasp, one more foot hold, to keep them from sliding back.
 2. It also helped them to climb one step closer to **The Top**.
 3. **No home can function in a scriptural way w/o discipline.**

III. Slide7a THE TELEOLOGICAL WOODSHED (4-11)

- A. *Teleological* - The branch of philosophy that deals with **ends** or **final causes**. Aristotle claimed that an **acorn's** intrinsic *telos* is to become a fully grown oak tree. *In our context today God's discipline towards us is always w/an end in view!*
- B. The proverbial *Woodshed* is where one would be taken for their *correction*. [Although, **my dad** didn't need any *woodshed*, any place would do for him]
- C. Do you ever see **suffering/trials/discipline** as signs of God's *disfavor*?
 1. The recipients of this letter might have jumped to that conclusion as they started to face **opposition & persecution**.

- D. **Slide7b Chastening** - means *discipline*. *To teach or instruct as one would a child.*
It is the **discipline** for the purpose of **education/correction**.
1. There is a difference between **punishment & correction**.
 2. Sometimes discipline is **corrective**, other times **preventative**, other times still...**instructive**.
 3. Discipline can come when we are doing **poorly**, **but** also when we are doing **well** (e.g. **Job**)
 4. **God is like a wise coach** who brings greater stress & challenge to us **that** we might *ascend to undreamed levels of spirituality*.
 - a) Interesting we expect our soccer/football/track coaches to run our kids tails off, & get them into shape & condition; **yet** we get nervous or upset when God does the same for their/our **spiritual lives**.
- E. The writer here gives us **7 reminders** regarding *Gods loving parental discipline*:
1. **Slide8 DON'T FORGET IT** (5a)
 - a) Yes, many have **forgotten** today the importance of disciplining children.
 - b) Parents seem **too distracted & too exhausted** to protect & care for their children in this way.
 - c) The ancient world found it incomprehensible that a father could possibly **love** His child **& not correct** him.
 2. **Slide9 DON'T DEPISE IT** (5b)
 - a) Some despise it by blowing it off, regarding it lightly.
 - b) **Physical discipline**: Spanking/corporal punishment. **It's not** like the new mini-series "The Slap". **It's not** disciplining out of anger. **It's not** punishment. **It is** correction. **It is** the parent representing God & disciplining out of **love**, not anger. **It** gives a **sting** (painful) **but never** a **mark**. **It's** bathed with prayer & forgiveness. [explain my process]
 - (1) **It is an ongoing process** of helping your children ultimately to become **self-controlled & self-disciplined**.
 - c) **Spiritual discipline**: in all of our discipline/trials/chastisement from God...**We remember God has brought or allowed** it. **We are to**

welcome it from Him. We are to **glorify Him** in it. We are to look for Him to make it a **blessing**.

3. **Slide10 DON'T BE DISCOURAGED BY IT** (5c,6)
 - a) The other pitfall is to go completely the other way.
 - (1) e.g. "My trouble is more than I could bear."
 - (2) **Yet forgetting...**"God is faithful; He will not let us be tempted beyond what we can bear"; **forgetting...**"His grace is sufficient for us, for His strength is made perfect in weakness."; **forgetting...**" that all things work together for good to those who love God,".
 - (3) They become **paralyzed** by discipline.
 - b) **Note:** this is all cuz He **Loves** You. [you don't discipline the neighbor kids]

4. **Slide11 ENDURE IT** (7,8)
 - a) **Patiently endure it** – "It is the divinely ordained path to a deepening relationship w/God & a growing love w/Him!"¹
 - b) **Slide12a** Tom Landry, former coach of the Dallas Cowboys, said, *"The job of a coach is to make men do what they don't want to do, in order to be what they've always wanted to be!"*
 - (1) **Slide12b** If you have a **boy** you have a **man**-in-the-making; If you have a **girl** you have a **woman**-in-the-making.
 - c) It is a fact of **forestry** that very often when **small trees** are cleared away, some of the **big trees** will subsequently come down. **Why?** The **smaller trees** shielded the trees from nature's assaults & **thus the large trees never developed to stand alone**. :(
 - (1) So, God regularly allows his children to **undergo hardships** to prevent their **falling**.
 - d) **Immunity** from Gods discipline is the badge of the reprobate.

5. **Slide13 BE IN SUBJECTION TO IT** (9)
 - a) God is concerned w/our **attitude** with His discipline. **Is your attitude complaint or surrender?**

¹ Kent Hughes, Hebrews 12

- (1) 14a Sometimes we accept it w/**resignation** - They believe that, since nothing happens outside the will of God, I guess I have to accept it. This is accepting not the fathers **love**, but only his power.
 - (2) 14b Sometimes we accept it w/**self-pity** - I'm the only one that's ever disciplined/hurt/given trials/etc.
 - (3) 14c Sometimes we accept it w/**let's get it over** w/mentality - I'll take this discipline & struggle thru it w/defiance but not w/gratitude
 - (4) 14d Sometimes we **resent** God for it - Some only see God as vindictive, they ask, "what did I do to deserve this?" Instead of, "What is God trying to **teach me** & to **do w/me** through this experience?"
 - (5) 14e Other times we accept it **gratefully** - from a loving father. Jerome said, "The greatest anger of all is when **God** is no longer angry w/us when we sin!" The supreme punishment is when God lets us alone...as **unteachable**.
- b) Every **earthly father** will admit he has meted out **imperfect** discipline at best. We've all learned by doing. **Sometimes we were too severe other times too lenient.** Other times showing favoritism. **Sometimes** the kids **got it** because we **got it** that day. Ever punish the wrong child?
- (1) Yet God, makes **no** mistakes, is **never** ill-informed, **nor** ill-tempered. **None of His** discipline has ever been misplaced.
- c) **Talk about the rod, spanking:** [Explain what I mean by **proper** spanking]
 - d) The problem is, the child is a **sinner**. [we are not sinners because we sin, but we sin because we are sinners]
 - e) Distinguish between **behaviors & accidents**. [spilled milk & defiance]
 - f) Don't **bribe** your child. (*Johnny if you come over here I'll give you a candy*)
 - g) Slide15 It's a **heart** issue. Prov.22:15 **Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him**[rod 9 x's in Pr]
 - h) Children **challenge** authority. But look whose authority you are letting them buck when you don't discipline them...**God's**. **Will you continue to let them live under their own authority?** They don't want you to rule them.

- i) **Other methods** of disciplining children. **Time-out**, for helping them to foresee evil. **Natural consequences**, the removal of a privilege, or paying for the broken toy.
 - j) Give both **communication & discipline**. Each parent seems to be really comfortable w/1 of these. [Discipline only & no communication lack kindness; Communicate only & no spanking lack firmness]
 - (1) **Slide16a** To do only one is like **a cargo ship** w/all its cargo on one side...it won't sail well.
 - k) **Slide16b Quote from Ann Landers** [Letter by a Father to his son]

Dear Son, As long as you live under this roof you will follow the rules. In our house we do not have a democracy. I did not campaign to be your father. You did not vote for me. We are father and son by the grace of God. I consider it a privilege and I accept the responsibility. In accepting it I have an obligation to perform the role of a **father**. I am not your **pal**. The age difference makes such a relationship impossible. We can share many things but you must remember I am your **father**. This is a hundred times more meaningful than being a **pal**. You will do as I say in this house. You are not to disobey me because whatever I ask you to do is motivated by **love**. This may be hard for you to understand at times. But the rule holds. You will understand perfectly when you have a son of your own. Until then, trust me...**Love, Dad**
6. **Slide17 PROFIT BY IT** (10) [**partake of**, have share in]
- a) All of God's disciplines for us have **one grand aim...which is nothing less than** to make His people like Him...**HOLY**.
 - (1) So the **most holy of us** have endured the **most discipline**.
 - (2) What a gift then **discipline** is.
 - b) **How do the values of God's discipline listed here help us to respond to discipline?** (holiness & peace & rt.)
 - c) **The profit?** – **Holiness** & the **fruit of peace**/shalom.
 - d) (vs10) **Contrast: Earthly fathers** for a **short time** & for **immediate ends** **And** our **Heavenly Father** for both **holy lives** & **eternal ends**.
 - e) **God's goal for us...discipline for maturity**.

- f) Slide18 Rev.3:19 As many as I **love**, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
- g) Job 5:17 Behold, **happy is the man** whom God corrects; Therefore do not despise the chastening of the Almighty.

7. Slide19 **BE TRAINED BY IT** (11) [be exercised by it]

- a) Christian suffering is not sheer circumstantial misery or the result of *blind chance*.
 - b) Paul says, because we know that suffering **produces** perseverance; perseverance, character; and character, hope. Rom.5:3,4 NIV
 - c) Peter put it this way, These(trials) have come so that your faith - of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire - may be **proved** genuine and may **result in** praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed. 1 Pet.1:7
 - d) Slide20 “Oh that we would not only **bear...but kiss** the Rod.” William Jay
 - e) The **peaceable fruit** is when the hurricanes of life our blowing on the surface **but** deep down w/in you...*all is serene...all is quiet...all is well.*
- (1) The Christian life is **not** a life w/o waves, **but** simply a life that lives below them.

F. Slide21 **Discipline:** *It's Source is Love. It's Aim is at Good. It's Recipients...only His Children.*