

10.26.21

- *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.*
  - **“The Rod is a tool of grace which is helpful and not harmful to the child and parents are commanded by God to use it in a liberal manner, when training and disciplining their children. The years of application for the rod are year one through twelve or puberty, whichever comes first.”**
  - **“Hold back”:** 4513 MANA` (maw-nah') a primitive root; to debar (negatively or positively) from benefit to deny, keep (back), refrain, restrain, withhold.
  - We live in an age when parents are exhorted to hold back discipline
  - Can you remember a sermon, book or teaching on child raising where you were encouraged to not hold back but discipline at will?
  - **“Discipline”:** 4148 MUWCAR (moo-sawr'); from 3256; literally, chastisement;
  - One of the ways the world system and liberal Christians attack the Scriptural teaching of “discipline” is to equate it with punishment.
  - Another is to equate it with “hitting”
  - The Holy Scriptures allow for the “discipline/training” of the child with the rod as opposed to hitting a child in anger or vengeance.
  - **“The Child” - na` ar (nah'-ar);** Strongs, “from the age of infancy to adolescence”, basically 1 – 12, before the teenage years; use in Bible - Proverbs 22:6; 22:15; 23:13; 29:15 (In the Russian translation compare the use of **22:6** with **29:15** as well as Exodus 2:7. In the Russian Bible this word is translated “child” in all cases except where spanking is used. When spanking is used the translators use a word indicating an older child. It is the same Hebrew word yet a different Russian word is used. We must go to the Hebrew then to understand this word. (In each example the same Hebrew word found in Proverbs is used below.)
  - **Cultural vs. Biblical Terms:** Early cultures did not date children specifically by years but rather by events - Birth, Circumcised, Nursing, Weaned, Puberty, Marriage, Adult. The numbers and ages which we call “teenagers” do appear in the Bible. Examples: Ishmael was 13 when circumcised; no mention of 14 or 15 year old person; Azariah was 16 when he became king of Judah but they are always referred to by age and not by the category or term indicating the ages of 13 – 19. The word “teenager” or “teen” does not occur in the Bible. This is a number based on terms used in the English numbering system beginning with 13

and ending with 19. It is not a numerical term which is common in all languages.

- **A child just weaned: Genesis 21:6-8 & 12,** “And Sarah said, “God has made laughter for me; everyone who hears will laugh with me. And she said, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age. And the child grew and was weaned, and Abraham made a great feast on the day that Isaac was weaned.” – (Gen 21:12) - But God said to Abraham, “Do not be distressed because **of the lad** and your maid; whatever Sarah tells you, listen to her, for through Isaac your descendants shall be named.”
- **A nursing child: Exodus 2:6-7** “When she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the boy was crying. And she had pity on him and said, “This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, “Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may **nurse the child** for you?”
- **A child before he is weaned: 1 Samuel 1:22** - “But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “I will not go up until **the child is weaned**; then I will bring him, that he may appear before the LORD and stay there forever.”
- **A child just after he is weaned - 1 Samuel 1:24** – “Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with a three-year-old bull and one ephah of flour and a jug of wine, and brought him to the house of the LORD in Shiloh, although the **child was young**.”
- **A boy, before manhood/puberty Psalm 148:12; I Samuel 12:26** – This would seem to be the implication by its use in Psalm 148:12 – “Both **young men** and virgins; old men and children.” Here the word is used for boys before the age of sexual activity. This would be the case of Samuel in 1 Samuel 2:26 – “**Now the boy Samuel was growing in stature and in favor both with the LORD and with men**.”
- **A child who is still learning right from wrong - Isaiah 7:16** - “For before **the boy** will know enough to refuse evil and choose good, the land whose two kings you dread will be forsaken.”
- **A child old enough to write but still considered a child – Isaiah 10:19** “And the rest of the trees of his forest will be so small in number that **a child** could write them down.”
- **The word is also used figuratively, II Kings 5:14** Much as we would use the term to complement a woman’s complexion. That she had a child’s skin, that which has not been made rough by work or life, II Kings 5:14, “So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of **a little child**, and he was clean.”
- **Confusion may occur when this term is used figuratively** by adults as a form of humility and not to be taken literally. - Jeremiah 1:6-7 – “Then I said, “Alas, Lord GOD! Behold, I do not know how to speak, because **I am a youth**. But the LORD said to me, “Do not say, **I am a youth**,’ because everywhere I send you, you shall go, and all that I command you, you shall speak.” It is obvious from this passage that God has rejected Jeremiah’s false humility and fears and reminds him that he is indeed an adult with adult responsibilities.
- **Some confusion may occur because of the early age with which young men or boys were given responsibilities.** It is only fairly recently that western culture

has created the transition stage of “teenager”. Early cultures marked age not by a calendar year but rather by puberty.

Kings, princes and leaders often had boys in training with them, even in battle. - 1 Sam 20:35-36 – “*Now it came about in the morning that Jonathan went out into the field for the appointment with David, and a little lad was with him. And he said to his lad, “Run, find now the arrows which I am about to shoot.” As the lad was running, he shot an arrow past him.” These young boys often were given duties of responsibility which in modern western times we would not think of doing.*

It is important to understand that in these times it was not uncommon for boys and girls to rise to positions of kingship, be given in marriage, begin a career or enter in the army in service of an officer, even at an early age. This practice was still going on as late as the 1800’s when army officers and naval officers had pre-teen boys in their service who had both rank and authority of command. 1 Sam 25:5 – “*So David sent ten young men, and David said to the young men, “Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name”*”

This fact of youth rising by virtue of birth to leadership can be seen in Ecclesiastes 10:16, “*Woe to you, O land, whose king is a lad and whose princes feast in the morning.*” And again, Isaiah 3:4, “*And I will make mere lads their princes and capricious children will rule over them,*” Both Biblical and European history supplies us with examples of mere boys who exercised tremendous power. King Edward of England who ascended to the throne of England at age 9 during the early days of Knox and the English Reformation is one example as well as child kings of Russia.

- **The application here is a child roughly from 9 mos to age 12 or puberty whichever comes first.**

- **“Beat”:** 5221 NAKAH (naw-kaw'); a primitive root; to strike (lightly or severely):

- This is not the word “pound”
- Rather it emphasizes multiple strokes with a purpose.
- It is also used in cooking.

- **“Rod”:** SHEBET (7627)

- Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies; “As stick, rod, staff; a rod or staff for chastening”
- Theological Wordbook of the Old Testament; “Denotes rod used for beating cumin and dill (Isaiah 28:27), as a weapon (II Samuel 23:21), a shepherd’s implement (Leviticus 27:32), to punish slaves (Exodus 21:20), fools (Proverbs 10:13) and sons (Proverbs 13:24)
- Unger’s Bible Dictionary; “A stick for punishment, a shepherd staff”
- The equivalent is the wooden spoon or spatula

- **“Deliver”:** NATSAL (naw-tsal') 5337; primitive root; to

snatch away.

- Although it is used literally of being delivered from enemies or circumstances, it is often used, as here, of being delivered from spiritual destruction:

*Ps 39:8*

8 **"Deliver me from all my transgressions; make me not the reproach of the foolish.**

*Ps 51:14*

14 **Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, Thou God of my salvation; then my tongue will joyfully sing of Thy righteousness.**

*Ps 144:7*

7 **Stretch forth Thy hand from on high; rescue me and deliver me out of great waters, out of the hand of aliens**

- The use of the word "deliver" is not poetic but doctrinal. The term has deep spiritual roots in Scripture. The rod is indeed a tool of grace.

- **"From Sheol": 7585 she'owl (sheh-ole'); or sheol (sheh-ole'); from 7592;**

- Strong's: Hades or the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates: The 66 occurrences of this word are distributed throughout every period of biblical Hebrew... it is a place of conscious existence after death, one side of which is occupied by the suffering, unrighteous dead separated by a great chasm from the other side peopled by the righteous dead enjoying their reward.

- **Definitive passages on the rod, pain and discipline**

**"The Rod is a tool of grace which is helpful and not harmful to the child and parents are commanded by God to use it in a liberal manner, when training and disciplining their children. The years of application for the rod are year one through twelve or puberty, whichever comes first."**

- *PRO 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

- **Finn businessman who said during question and answer time, "I do not use the rod on my son and you cannot say that I do not love him. I do love my son."**
- **In Houston you may sign your children up for experimental drug treatments held by pharmaceutical companies. These studies offer not only free care but will pay you. We have not done this nor will we ever do this. We do not experiment with our children. No form of discipline is taught in the scriptures other than the rod, there are other forms of applications but these are experimental in nature. We choose not to experiment with our children.**

- *Proverbs 20:30 Stripes that wound scour away evil, and strokes reach the innermost parts.*

- **The world teaches that a parent who spans his child, who disciplines his child is a bad parent, what does God's Word teach**
- **The world teaches that we should be very, very careful to just gently tap our child to get his attention. That this is all spanking is, and attention getter, what does the**

## Word of God teach.

- *Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the **rod** of **discipline** will remove it far from him.*
- Children are not sinful because they sin – they are not born a blank slate which is then marred by parents, society and culture.
- Children sin because they are sinful – they are born with the imputed sin of Adam, the curse under which all mankind toils.
- Children are born sinful, foolish and helpless and if left to themselves they are doomed to remain sinful, foolish and helpless.
- Children are not foolish because they act foolish – they are not born a blank slate which is then marred by parents, society and culture.
- Children act foolish because they are born foolish – foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, this is their nature and how they will remain if left to their own devices.
- **Illustration: Pregnancy, labor, birth: baby’s response**
- **Illustration: Children will continue like this at every stage**
- **This process, if left unchecked will continue on into adulthood. God may intervene with the state (school, government, etc.), with the church (Sunday school, camp, youth group or college ministry), with circumstances (tragedies that cause the child to “come to himself”) but that is a far harsher road and not the first and primary will of God. You as parent are the first and primary will of God.**
  - God has provided grace through the parent to train the child with the rod to deliver him first from foolishness and ultimately from Hell.
  - *PRO 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.*
- **How many of you were spanked? How many of you consider yourself psychologically damaged.**
- **Over 200 biographies and autobiographies of great men and women who were spanked, none were psychologically damaged.**
- **In fact, if spanking psychologically damages a child, virtually all adults born before 1970 are sociopaths.**
  - *Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*
- **Illustration: Shame in the market (Screaming, running, going limp)**
- **Illustration: Shame in church (Fit at being left at Sunday School or nursery, being called out of service because you child is throwing a fit.)**
- **Illustration: Shame at relatives (Refusing to kiss grandma, refusing to speak to relatives, breaking things, causing you to leave early)**
- **Remember: In the world, those who are teaching that the rod is wrong also are teaching freedom in sexual exploration, freedom in moral exploration, freedom in religious exploration, the rejection of spanking is not simply the laying aside of a difficult biblical concept and the retention of the rest, it is a package deal in which**

**your value systems of morality, family and honor are being set aside.**

- *HEB 12:6 & 7 “For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives. " It is for discipline that you endure; God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline?”*
- Notice the correlation in each of the above verses between discipline and rod.
- In the Word of God the rod is the only direct application supplied for discipline and they are consistently used together and interchangeably.
- It is only in modern times that Christians have begun to look for a substitute for the rod when the word discipline is read.
- **What will your son or daughter think, when someday as an adult they read this passage? Will they think of a loving father, committed to their success, who came home at night and in love, disciplined, trained, and prepared them for the success they now are experiencing in life or will they draw a complete blank with little or no experiential understanding of this verse in their role as parents nor in their relationship with God.**
- **Passages on the Rod make it clear that God had in mind an implement which would inflict pain.**

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- It is important for us, when interpreting scripture to submit to the most very basic principles or laws of Biblical interpretation.
- Words have meaning – we cannot ignore the definition of a word to make it conform with our own preconceptions.
- Interpretation is subject to definition – our interpretation of a passage cannot exceed the boundaries set by the definitions of the words in a passage. We are not free to say, “Well that is not my interpretation of this passage”, if your interpretation exceeds the boundaries set by the definitions of the key terms.
- **I do not believe that a loving God would want me to hit my child with a rod.**
- **My “rod” is time out, what is your rod?**
- **My “rod” is going to your room, what is your rod?**
- **That is not what “rod” means to me, what “rod” means to me is to correct your child, “rod” is simply one application of many that we can use. You could just as easily say, He who doesn’t consistently use “time outs” hates his child but he who loves his child is consistent with discipline.”**
- **The Rod and the Wound: Finding your balance amidst the**

## rhetoric

**“The Rod is a tool of grace which is helpful and not harmful to the child, and parents are commanded by God to use it in a liberal manner, when training and disciplining their children. The years of application for the rod are year one through twelve or puberty, whichever comes first.”**

- On the one hand you have the world’s lies, that the best parent is a passive parent who restricts their intervention into their children’s lives to the greatest degree possible.
- **Liberals: By the use of inflammatory terms, liberals set the ground for their agenda even before the discussion has begun “If you hit your child you will teach your child to hit.”**
- **The world teaches: “If you are strict with your children then they will rebel when they are teens.” God’s Word teaches: *Prov 22:6, “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it.”***
- **Pastor: Good parents of children who are “strict” tend to make poor parents of teenagers and vice versa.**
- **Pastor: “Sure your child is compliant now, but later in life he will struggle with all sorts of internal demons because of your suppression of his natural bents and feelings.”**
- On the other hand you have the perversion of discipline through aggressive child abuse.
  - This though is the extreme, not the norm.
  - The vast majority of child abuse has nothing to do with the disciplining and training of children but simple dysfunctional and psychopathic anger brought on by alcohol, drugs or a history of dysfunctional relational behavior, usually have its roots in equally abusive childhood experiences.
  - Just as this seminar is not developed for special needs children, so it is not developed or intended for use by special needs parents.
- **If you are abusive you should seek counseling immediately.**
- **If you were abused as a child you should seek counseling, even if you are convinced it has not affected you.**
- We must think rationally.
- **Lets make a list of all the activities that would be forbidden, not just of the parent, but of the school and of society, if a incidental or small bruise is an automatic indication of abuse...**
- **We differentiate between a bruise which occurs as we teach our child to ride a bicycle and when we let go for the first time, he falls down versus a bruise that occurs when, out of anger and frustration with our child as he learns to ride the bicycle, we push him over. It is the same way with spanking with the rod. That is why two words evolved in our culture, “spanking” and “hitting”.**

- **Application:**

**“The Rod is a tool of grace which is helpful and not harmful to the child and parents**

**are commanded by God to use it in a liberal manner, when training and disciplining their children. The years of application for the rod are year one through twelve or puberty, whichever comes first.”**

- **Discipline with the Rod**
- The term Rod seems to lend itself to a thick stick or dowel which will support weight and inflict pain. Not too much should be made of the specific implement thought, since the Hebrew word here is vague and general, rather than specific. One word seems to be given to a relatively wide range of instruments much like our word “rod” is used today.
- Two primary applications
- The switch – this is a long slender branch with which the child is spanked. Due to its small size multiple strokes are needed.
- The rod – this is a small dowel, wooden spoon, etc., with which the child receives a specific and limited number of strokes commensurate to the offense, (1, 2, or 3)
- My personal preference is the rod
- It is controlled
- It is over quickly
- The offense / discipline ratio is easily explained to the child
- Do not withhold the rod from the child who cries easily.
  
- **Misconceptions:**
  - **Crying does not drive out foolishness** – the rod must be used. No where does the Bible equate crying with the results of the rod. Crying is not the goal but a by-product; driving out foolishness from the child is the goal.
  - **Missionary attending and crying – one extreme, no spanking “When I go to spank my child she immediately begins crying so I don’t need to”**
  - **Pastor and crying – the other extreme, abuse – went after his teenage son with a “rod”. The son ran away from home.**
    - **Praising God / Singing hymns does not drive out foolishness-**
  - **Nigerian woman on why she does not need to spank**
    - **Speaking in tongues does not drive out foolishness**
  - **Overheard this conversation at Christian bookstore on why the mother did not need to spank**
    - **Praying a prayer of confession does not drive out foolishness.**
  - **Mother at conference, “How can I spank my child after she has confessed here sin to me?”**
    - **Using emotions or spiritual rituals to avoid the consequences of our actions is not a good wisdom and life skill.**
  
- **In this process God does not consider pain to be a negative or punitive factor but rather a positive and restorative agent.**
- The Biblical pattern for discipline with the rod is far better than the alternatives
- Psychological abuse
- Sensory deprivation
- Relational deprivation
- Learning to refocus sin in a socially acceptable manner
- Psychological abuse – Ask; Plead; Bribe; Threaten; Abuse or Neglect

Supermarket scenario

- **Although it goes cross grained to our value system. Discipline is the true sign of love. Faulty Belief – “A refusal to compare what I think or feel or experience with what God says.” Dr. Nichols, Moody Graduate School**

*PRO 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

*HEB 12:6 For those whom the Lord loves He disciplines, And He scourges every son whom He receives. "*

- **The rod is no longer used when the child ceases to be viewed by the culture as a child and rather as a son or daughter, or when the child ceases to be a child in the eyes of God (Puberty). Three scriptural passages give guidance and over ride culture in this area.**

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*Prov 27:22*

*22 Though you pound a fool in a mortar with a pestle along with crushed grain, yet his folly will not depart from him.*

- According to this passage
  - Will the rod drive foolishness out of the son or daughter who is no longer a child?
  - Will increasing the harshness or strength of the “spank” drive foolishness out of the son or daughter who is no longer a child?
  - When does the child cease being a “child” and become a son or daughter?
  - We all know that a son or daughter does not remain “a child” until they are an adult. This would mean that a son or daughter remains a child well into their 20’s or even 30’s.
- **If you have any questions concerning the validity of this statement suggest at a church business or elders meeting that the “Youth”, “College” and “Singles” ministries all be redesignated as “Children’s Ministry” and moved under that designation in the church structure.**
- The scripture gives credence to culture being related to the age when one is no longer considered a child:

*John 9:21*

*21 but how he now sees, we do not know; or who opened his eyes, we do not know. Ask him; he is of age, he shall speak for himself."*

*John 9:23*

*23 For this reason his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."*

- Our culture as do virtually all cultures, contains periods of transition, these periods have a

definite transition whereby sons and daughters are no longer considered “children” or a “child”. Even the most conservative churches accept this reality when designating their Bible studies and ministries...

- Children’s ministry
  - Youth ministry
  - College ministry
  - Singles ministry
  - Young marrieds
  - Adult ministry
  - Seniors ministry
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- **Note: The current teaching among some conservative evangelicals that a daughter remains a child under the authority of her father until she marries and passes to the authority of her husband has no basis in Scripture. This is a cultural practice and not limited to Christian cultures – Hindus, Muslims and many pagan animist tribes treat their daughters in the same way. In fact there are several doctrinal questions raised by the strict application of this system, among them being – the sole mediatorial role of Christ, the universal priesthood of the believer, the gifting and calling of all believers, the universal call of the Great Commandment – to name but a few.**
  
  - The scripture also overrides culture. Children cease to be children by the designation of Scripture in three areas:
    - Marriage

*Gen 2:24*

24 *For this cause a man shall leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.*

- The Call of God

*Matt 19:29*

29 *"And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, shall receive many times as much, and shall inherit eternal life.*

- Puberty

In the law, whether dealing with menstrual impurity or male discharge, the law always refers to those involved as “women” or “men” never as children. Thus puberty itself sets a person apart from being a child, though it does not qualify one for independence it does signify that it is no longer of value to use the rod.

- **It is simply humiliating for a young woman who has entered puberty to bend over and be spanked on the bottom. This is not only immodest and humiliating for her but it is wrong for the father to have this kind of familiarity with a daughter who has entered puberty.**

- **It is simply humiliating for a young man who has entered puberty to bend over and be spanked on the bottom. This is not only emasculating for him but it is wrong for the mother to have this kind of familiarity with a son who has entered puberty.**

- **Conclusion:**

- **The Rod is a tool of grace which is helpful and not harmful to the child.**
- **Parents are commanded by God to use the rod in a liberal manner, when training and disciplining their children.**
- **The rod is to be used in love, as a tool of training, looking to the child's success and always under the control of the parent.**
- **It is never used in anger, as a tool of punishment, because of the child's failure in an uncontrolled and arbitrary manner.**
- **The years of application for the rod are year one through twelve or puberty, whichever comes first.**