

Topics in Proverbs

I. Skills in Godly Child-Training - Pt 3

- A. God's Overall Intention for the Family
- B. The Stakes in Child-Training
- C. Terrible Miseries for a Foolish Child
- D. Application of Godly Parental Wisdom
- E. The Rod - Pr 29:15

1. The Rod

a. What is the Rod?

- i. Lit. - *shebet* - a stick (for punishing, writing, fighting, ruling, walking, etc.), a clan, correction, dart, rod, scepter, staff, tribe.
- ii. Used in a variety of settings - a herdsman's staff (Le 27:32; Mic 7:14) for counting animals (Ez 20:37). A weapon (2 Sam 23:21), a tool used to beat seeds from cumin (Is 28:27), a tool used for remedial or penal punishment of a slave (Ex 21:20), a fool (Pr 10:13; 26:3), and a son (Pr 13:24; 22:15; 23:13-14; 29:15)
- iii. Used 48 X's in Proverbs

b. Proposal

- i. a literal object representing a metaphorical reality
- ii. Like the sword of Ro 13:4 which represents the governments legitimate punitive power even up to the death penalty.
- iii. Represents the parent's God given authority to enforce Family rules,
 - it would include any legitimate disciplinary methods even corporal punishment
 - could be the time out, writing sentences, doing chores, or spanking
- iv. If something isn't working, change it up

2. Application of the rod

a. Literalism - some argue that

- i. parents should never use their hand
- ii. the rod need to be a literal rod, a branch, or a wooden spoon

b. Rationale

- i. punishment should not be dealt out by the same hand that loves, caresses, and comforts
- ii. Supposedly causes confusion

c. Response

- i. Does God control everything with His hand? - Pr 16:33; 21:1
- ii. Does God design difficulties to humble and discipline us? - Heb 12:5-11
- iii. The same God deals blessings and discipline out of the same hand.
 - Is it confusing at times? Yes
 - would it be wise to get used to that early in life? Definitely
- iv. The parental rod is always spoken of in the singular
- v. and always put in the hand of the father - accountable to God - Eph 6:4
- vi. There needs to be a united understanding as to how the rod will be implemented

- woe to the family where the children know that mom and dad don't agree on this
- Dad and mom are the primary unit and should function as a team - if not
 - children will play one against the other
 - they will go where they can get what they want

vii. 3 things to remember

- don't contradict each other in front of the children.
- don't allow children to play one against the other
- don't let children think you sympathize with them against your spouse.

3. What do you do with the Rod?

a. Use it, don't withhold it - Pr 23:13-14

- i. Withhold - *mana`* -to debar from benefit or injury, deny, keep (back), refrain, restrain, withhold.
- ii. Used as holding back something that is owed - Pr 3:27; of what is needed - 11:26; of what is needed, requested, and wanted - 30:7-9
- iii. At times corporal punishment is needed by the child - 22:15
- iv. Discipline brings peace - 29:17
- v. Discipline brings security - 23:14 - delivering his soul from sheol
 - *sh@'owl* - Hades or the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates:--grave, hell, pit.
 - could refer to delivering them from capitol offenses
 - could also refer to the end of an overindulged, child that has been taught to resist biblical authority - what you permit; you teach
 - the career criminal is one at home first
 - if he escapes human justice for a time - Eli's sons 1 Sam 2-3
 - they were wicked - 2:12-17
 - Eli talked w/ them - 2:23-25/ God did not acknowledge this talk as having been legitimate - 3:13
 - he will not escape divine justice - 1 Sam 4:11

b. Use it with Conviction - Pr 13:24

- i. *chasak* - to restrain or refrain; to refuse, spare, preserve; to observe:--assuage, forbear, hinder, hold back, keep (back), punish, refrain, reserve, spare, withhold.
 - Effect - refusal to use the rod
 - Cause - According to the world - love, patience, understanding
 - According to the Bible - hate
- ii. What's love got to do with it
 - define love - world - letting them pursue the dictates of their heart
 - Bible - pursuing what is best for the other
 - permissive "love" reflects no respect for God's standards, for parents, or the child
- ii. How to hate your child - Ro 13:1-7
 - authorities are established (appointed) by God
 - they are to be respected as one would God
 - they are owed (due) *tax, custom, fear, honor*
- iii. Sphere Sovereignty

- as the Government has the sword as their symbol of authority - Ro 13:4
- the family has the rod as their symbol
- excuses -authority may be abused - doesn't excuse not respecting or using authority and it's symbols
 - biblical discipline is not child abuse - the text seems to indicate that it's lack is closer to the definition
 - religiously motivation - the rejection of God's authority and His symbols is an attempt to flee and remove reminders

iv. Early

- **shachar** - to dawn, be (up) early at any task; seek diligently) early, in the morning). - Ps 63:1
- Solomon's watch word is proactivity
 - must start early - parenting is not to be crisis management oriented
 - teaching before it is relevant prepares the child for what is to come - must be age appropriate
 - obedience is to be expected before understanding is attained
 - determine the child is to learn and do as he is told right away
 - inspect what you expect, deal appropriately w/ disobedience
- it is more important for your children to respect you than like you
 - your child is not your equal
 - obedience should be expected
 - negotiation and discussion can be expanded as the child matures
- things to remember
 - your child's state and your responsibility - Pr 22:15
 - you're in charge
 - you are the first person to establish obedience, if you fail - you set up your child for trouble in school, church, society, work, and ultimately with God

c. Use it for his instruction - Pr 22:15

i. **qashar** - to tie, physically (gird, confine, compact) or mentally (in love, league):--bind (up), join together, knit, stronger, work (treason).

- Jacob's soul was bound up in Benjamin's life - Ge 44:30-31
- Jonathan's soul was knit to the soul of David - 1 Sa 18:1-4
- the word of God is to be bound round our neck, heart, and fingers - Pr 3:3; 6:21; 7:3

ii. Foolishness - total depravity, not innocence, denseness toward the truth of God

- Sin starts young - some of first words learned - no stop - shortly there after, they will look at you while doing that which they know you have said no
- the purpose of the rod is to drive this foolishness from the child - **rachaq**
- to widen, remove be cast, drive, put, remove, withdraw, loose