

"Amen Or O Me?"
Deuteronomy 10: 1-22
May 25, 2014

Loving God Coventally Requires The Circumcision Of Your Heart And Not Exclusively Your Flesh, (vs. 16)

To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God's Discipline, (vs. 11: 1 – 7) *Grace... Gifting... Growth... Guarantee*

Message Emphasis: There is a great misunderstanding of what it means to be God's covenant people. Many do not accept God's discipline as being part of their relationship with God. We must see; however, that God does in fact discipline those whom He loves and that if we are not being conformed into the image of Christ through discipline, we are probably not in covenant with God.

"Chastisement" is a word which often means correction by words – instruction and reproof; but here there can be no doubt it is correction by strokes, for the effect of this chastisement is stripes, or rather whelps – the inflamed swollen marks of stripes, which are said to be effectual to our healing. The "chastisement of our peace," is the suffering, by the endurance of which our reconciliation or happiness was secured... This verse is a wonderfully complete representation of the sufferings of Jehovah's righteous servant... The great truth contained in it may be thus stated: The numerous, varied, violent, severe, fatal sufferings of the righteous servant of the Lord, were the endurance of those evils in which God expresses his displeasure at sin... ~ John Brown, 1853 (Isaiah 53)

1) Growing Through Discipline Requires Self Discipline First, (vs. 1)

The intended result of discipline is growth

"For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it. Therefore lift your drooping hands and strengthen your weak knees," (Hebrews 12:11-12, ESV)

- A covenantal love must underlie all discipline

Much discipline is abusive because of a lack of love

You shall therefore love the LORD your God "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children... (Deuteronomy 6:5-7, ESV)

- Formative discipline must come first

Much discipline is abusive because there is not teaching

and keep his charge, his statutes, his rules, and his commandments always. "Assemble the people, men, women, and little ones, and the sojourner within your towns, that they may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, and be careful to do all the words of this law, and that their children, who have not known it, may hear and learn to fear the LORD your God, as long as you live in the land that you are going over the Jordan to possess."" (Deuteronomy 31:12-13, ESV)

"But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified." (1 Cor. 9:27, ESV)

2) Growing Through Discipline Demonstrates God's Nonnegotiable Standard, (vs. 2 – 4)

We are not at liberty to negotiate

what God requires for growth

- God's standard is specifically applied to those who have been taught

What does this say about our responsibility to children?

And consider today (since I am not speaking to your children who have not known (Perf.Act.) or seen (Perf.Act.)

"You are standing today all of you before the LORD your God: the heads of your tribes, your elders, and your officers, all the men of Israel, your little ones, your wives, and the sojourner who is in your camp... so that you may enter into the sworn covenant of the LORD your God, which the LORD your God is making with you today, that he may establish you today as his people, and that he may be your God..." (Deuteronomy 29:10-13, ESV)

- God's standard is intended to show who God is

Why does God seem to be so insistent? Holiness!

consider the discipline of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand and his outstretched (Pres.Pas.) arm, his signs and his deeds that he DID (Perf.Act.) in Egypt to Pharaoh the king of Egypt and to all his land,

- God's standard is intended to be obeyed; not broken

Do you really fear the retribution of the Lord?

and what he DID (Perf.Act.) to the army of Egypt, to their horses and to their chariots, how he made the water of the Red Sea flow (Perf.Act.) over them as they pursued (Act.Inf) after you, and how the LORD has destroyed them to this day,

"For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight, so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your judgment." (Psalm 51:3-4)

3) Growing Through Discipline Teaches God's Holy Requirements, (vs. 5 – 7)

Though painful, we grow in righteousness

- God takes us through difficult seasons to grow us

How does this change your view of difficulty or pain?

and what he DID (Perf.Act.) to you in the wilderness, until you came (Act.Inf) to this place,

- God disciplines some sternly as a warning (Num 16)

What happens to the warning when "public" discipline is abandoned?

and what he DID (Perf.Act.) to Dathan and Abiram the sons of Eliab, son of Reuben, how the earth opened (Perf.Act.) its mouth and swallowed them up, with their households, their tents, and every living thing that followed them, in the midst of all Israel.

- God's discipline is embraced by those who have a new heart

Are willing to accept God's discipline?

For your eyes have SEEN (Act.Part) all the great work of the LORD that he DID (Perf.Act.).

Come, ye weary, heavy laden, Bruised and broken by the fall; If you tarry till you're better, You will never come at all: Not the righteous, Sinners Jesus came to call. Let not conscience make you linger, Nor of fitness fondly dream; All the fitness he requireth Is to feel your need of him;

*****How Do I Enter Into A Covenant Relationship With God? ****

Message Directive: Look to Christ for the salvation of your soul ONLY in Christ will you find the material change you need.

4. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Material Goodness & Blessing (vs. 8 - 12)
5. To Remain In God's Covenant Begins With Forsaking All Other Objects Of Affection, (vs. 13 - 17)
6. To Remain In God's Covenant Requires A Change Of Identity; Not Just One's Own Ability, (vs. 18 - 25)
7. To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God Regulative Teaching, (vs. 26 - 32)
8. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Gracious Fellowship With His People, (vs. 12: 1 - 7)

9. To Remain In God's Covenant Begins With Embracing Your God As The Entirety Of Your Life, (vs. 8 - 14)
10. To Remain In God's Covenant Requires A Change Of Focus In Worship; Not Just Keeping Rules, (vs. 15 - 19)
11. To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God's Choice Of Holiness, (vs. 20 - 28)
12. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Active Purity Among His People, (vs. 29 - 32)

13. To Remain In God's Covenant Begins With Loving God Exclusively; Treating All Others With Impunity, (13: 1 - 5)
14. To Remain In God's Covenant Requires A Change Of Genuine Love; Not Just Tolerance, (vs. 6 - 11)
15. To Remain In God's Covenant Necessitates Acceptance Of God's Standard Of Purity, (vs. 12 - 18)
16. To Remain In God's Covenant Ensures God's Eternal Possession Of His People, (vs. 14: 1 - 2)