



DISCIPLINING CHILDREN

8 of 12

VERSES

The one withholding his rod hates his son,
But the one loving him seeks him diligently with discipline (Prov. 13:24).

MY SON, DO NOT REGARD LIGHTLY THE DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD,
NOR FAINT WHEN YOU ARE REPROVED BY HIM;
FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES (Heb. 12:5-6).

Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline;
be zealous therefore, and repent (Rev. 3:19).

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?
But if you are without discipline, of which all have become partakers,
then you are illegitimate children and not sons (Heb. 12:7-8).

He disciplines us for our good (Heb. 12:10).

Discipline your son when there is hope,
And do not lift up your soul to put him to death! (Prov. 19:18)

Do not withhold discipline from a boy!
Though you beat him with the rod, he will not die (Prov. 23:13).

The rod and rebuke may give wisdom,
But an unrestrained boy puts his mother to shame (Prov. 29:15).

Folly is bound together with the heart of a boy,
The rod of discipline may remove it far from him (Prov. 22:15 RCL).

You can beat him with the rod and deliver his soul from Sheol (Prov. 23:14).

Discipline your son in order that he may give you rest
and in order that he may give delights to your soul (Prov. 29:17).

WHAT IS A ROD OF DISCIPLINE?

A rod (shevet שֵׁבֶט) is a wooden stick used as (1) a shepherd's staff (Lev. 27:32; Psa. 23:4), (2) a weapon (Exod. 21:20), (3) a spear shaft (2 Sam. 18:14), (4) an instrument to beat cumin (Isa. 28:27), (5) a scepter (Zech. 10:11), and (6) an instrument to spank children (Prov. 22:15).

PRINCIPLES

1. Parents are commanded to discipline their children (Deut. 21:18, 20; Prov. 23:13).
2. Use rebuke and the rod (Prov. 29:15a).
3. Discipline is an expression of love (Prov. 13:24b).
4. Hunt down and punish disobedient children (Prov. 13:24b).
5. Love and discipline are compatible (Heb. 12:5-6; Rev. 3:19).
6. Withholding the rod is an expression of hatred (Prov. 13:24a).
7. Discipline is for a child's good (Prov. 23:14; Heb. 12:7-10).
8. Willing disobedience is worse than unknowing disobedience and should be punished accordingly (Luke 12:47-48).
9. Discipline gives wisdom and removes folly (Prov. 22:15; 29:15a).
10. Discipline is effective for a limited period of time (Prov. 19:18).
11. Undisciplined children bring shame to their parents (Prov. 29:15b).
12. Disciplined children bring happiness to their parents (Prov. 29:17).
13. Capital punishment is the last resort (Deut. 21:18-21; Prov. 19:18b).

LESSONS FOR LIVING

1. Can you love someone and hurt them?
Yes. God does (Heb. 12:5-6).
2. Love and discipline co-exist;
they're not mutually exclusive.
3. Discipline should be exercised
by mom and dad (Deut. 21:18).
4. Don't let your children get away with
doing wrong: seek them diligently with discipline
(Prov. 13:24b).
5. Small undisciplined infractions at home
lead to big infractions in society—such as
gang membership and criminal behavior.
6. Why children are not disciplined:
(1) you're too timid or afraid (Prov. 23:13),
(2) it's too much trouble—you're apathetic and lazy
(implied in Prov. 13:24b),
(3) you're too busy, or
(4) you don't believe in spanking children
(e.g., modern concepts of raising children).
7. Reasoning, reproof, and rebuke are not enough.
8. Be like your heavenly Father:
discipline your children.

