

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Spanking and the Inspiration of the Scriptures

by Kyle Pope

A recent program I watched on television focused its attention on the question of how parents should raise their children. The program began by looking at the fact that throughout history parents have held corporal punishment (spanking, whipping, etc.) to be an acceptable form of discipline. The program then pointed out that the Bible itself teaches physical punishment of children as a part of training them. The question was then asked (to the effect) – “Can the Bible, history and tradition all be wrong?” The remainder of the program looked at the views of “experts” that answered this question in no uncertain terms – “Yes, spanking children is wrong!”

This may seem like a rather tame statement at first, but I’m afraid that as Christians we may not realize what we are conceding if we either: (1) accept this view to be true, or (2) allow it to go unchallenged. What we say is that God is wrong! He does not understand human nature and childhood development! He has instructed what is actually destructive to such development! And thus His admonitions must not be heeded on this subject. That may sound rather strong, but I believe that is exactly what such a concession must confess.

What we must understand first are the claims of Scripture. It does not purport to be man’s commentary on God’s will, but rather the mind of God revealed to man directly. Thus, II Peter 1:20-21 claims, “...*No prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation; for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit*” (NKJV). Further, II Timothy 3:16-17 claims, “*All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work*” (NIV). So it is clear that the claim is that Scripture is God’s word. One can either accept that or not, but to be true to Scripture one must admit at least what the Bible claims about itself!

So then, what are the claims of Scripture about the concept of corporal punishment?

1. It is commanded by God – *“Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die”* (Prov. 23:13, NKJV).
2. It is constructive to a child – *“Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him”* (Prov. 22:15).
3. It can be a demonstration of love – *“He who spared his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly”* (Prov. 13:24).
4. It can lead to wisdom and
5. It is shameful to neglect it – *“The rod and reproof giveth wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother”* (Prov. 29:15).
6. It must not be destructive to the child – *“Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction”* (Prov. 19:18).
7. It can benefit a child spiritually – *“You shall beat him with a rod and deliver his soul from hell (that is sheol)”* (Prov. 29:17).
8. It is characteristic of God’s dealings with man – *“For whom the Lord loves he chastens, and scourges every son whom he receives”* (Heb. 12:6).

I pray that godly mothers and fathers who love the Lord will boldly and courageously stand up for the unfailing truth of God’s word. At stake is not only our belief in the inspiration of Scripture, but our children themselves!



Cell Phones vs. Bible

Author Unknown

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

- What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?
- What if we flipped through it several times a day?
- What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?
- What if we used it to receive messages from the text?
- What if we treated it like we couldn’t live without it?
- What if we gave it to our kids as gifts?
- What if we used it when we travel?
- What if we used it in case of emergency?

This is something to make you go...humm....where IS my Bible?

Oh, and one more thing. Unlike our cell phone, we don’t have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill. And no dropped calls!

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

“...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16