

Grace in Discipline - *Prov 23:12-14, Gal 6:1-2, Eph 6:4*

Parenting in the Promises #5

Review – A brief review of what we’ve learned:

The Gracious Gospel and Childrearing (Rom 3:9-24) - We reviewed our complete need for grace for our own salvation and for our children. Therefore, bringing up children in the Lord is all of grace. And God gives grace.

Grace to a Thousand Generations (Deut 5:9-10, 7:9) – Under God’s Covenant of Grace, we are not having children with a crapshoot mentality; rather, the faith we have been given is in a gospel that is proclaimed for us and for our children. Our God is a God of mercy to a thousand generations.

Grace, Loyalty, and Covenant Nurture at Home (Deut 6:20-23) – Comprehending this grace leads to a home which serves the LORD our God with joy and gladness of heart, for the abundance of everything. The attitude and aroma of the home is key to parenting.

Discipline is Grace (Heb 12:3-11) – When we discipline in light of God’s grace, in light of God’s covenant promises, and in the context of a home of grace, we are giving grace and not simply altering behavior.

From Instruction to Spanking (Prov 23:12-14, Eph 6:4) – The word translated “instruction,” “correction,” “training,” “discipline” and “chastisement” is a very broad. The work of training up our children involves all of these dimensions. Spanking (or “beating with the rod”) is a subset of this subject and the whole subject must be understood and applied in the context of Grace. Then, there will be Grace in Discipline.

Discipline From One Qualified (Gal 6:1) – You are only qualified to correct another if it is in a spirit of gentleness, with honest humility, and with a willingness to be a neighbor, obeying the second greatest commandment.

A Home With Tanks Full (1 Thess 2:10-12) – Children need affection, and lots of it. If there is no fellowship broken because there is no fellowship, discipline will not be effective. Your home must be a place filled with grace and kindness so that repentance and restoration is always sought (Rom 2:4).

The Clutch and the Gas – Applying these two concepts (filling tanks and administering discipline) is a bit like learning to drive a clutch. Expect it to take some practice and don’t give up just because there was a jolt or two (or you had to restart the car...).

Discipline in the Name of the Lord (Eph 6:1-4) – Children should understand that the primary issue is not that they have upset the home, but heaven. Disobedience to the Lord should be brought forth, using the Word. If they have disobeyed (Eph 6:4), if they have lied (Prov 6:16-19), if they have grumbled (Phil 2:14), if they have envied (Eph 5:3), if filthy talk (Eph 5:4), if stealing, resentment, rudeness, tattling, ingratitude, laziness – there is plenty of the Word to bring to bear. What about forgetfulness (Psalm 106:21-22)?

Prompt and Consistent (Eccles 8:11) – Delayed obedience is disobedience, for both the child and the parent. Promptness is important, especially with little ones, and returning to spank again and again should not be surprising to you. Much spanking (for a time) may be a good sign, not a bad sign.

Husband and Wife – Mom and Dad must work in tandem, as a team, not as competitors. Fathers, let your children know that if Mom has said to do such and such, asking Dad if you “have to” is a great transgression.

Painful Discipline is Grace and Love – and Fruitful (Heb 12:5-11) – A well placed rod brings stinging pain, but no injury. Take time to learn the art of spanking and develop a good liturgy that they can expect and follow. It proves you love them (Prov 13:24) and it will be fruitful. It provides a picture for them of the heavenly Father’s love for His sons and daughters.

An Instrument of Instruction, not Injury (Psalm 103:13-14, Prov 29:15) – Each situation, each child and each age brings different frames and issues to consider. Discipline for sin, not for childishness or immaturity; and for little ones, don’t be fooled by how cute the sin was. Learn to consider how you may have provoked and correct your own practices. Having identified the sin with them, you apply the rod, believing the promises and seeking to instruct and restore.

Prayer, Forgiveness, Restoration (1 John 1:9, Col 3:13) – You pray with them, you pray for them, you teach them to pray. You empathize with their temptations. You teach them to confess their sins, and to receive forgiveness. You grant forgiveness with a full heart. You hug them. You talk about restitution issues. You assure them of the efficacy of the blood of Christ and thank God with them. You reject any place for self-pity. You invite them back into fellowship. And you lead the family in welcoming them back into fellowship.

Grace in Discipline – A rodless love is no love at all. So is a loveless rod. Developing a home of biblical discipline requires the sacrificing of your time and the gift of your patience, prayers, and presence, your affection and your instruction. It is the giving of grace.