

Child Discipline

by Bill Crews

A child cannot grow up to be an exemplary and productive adult without proper discipline. Preventive discipline is needed in the form of good examples set by both parents and proper guidance and instruction with the word of God as the foundation. Corrective discipline is also needed in the form of appropriate punishment for deliberate disobedience in any situation calling for respect for and obedience to authority — parental, school, civil and divine. The purpose of corrective discipline is to correct misbehavior and to prevent a worsening situation and the bitter consequences it will surely bring.

Corrective discipline can easily run to two extremes: on the one hand, violent, unreasonable, explosive and inconsistent injuring for anything that displeases or angers, and on the other hand, indulgent pampering that allows and tolerates any sort of behavior. The one will break the spirit and pervert any reason or purpose for living; the other will produce spoiled and selfish brats. Some are so thoughtless and foolish as to label any and all corporal punishment as “child abuse.” And some are so severe and rigid that they think that a child is simply to be made to obey by physical beatings. And this is not to say that everything in between these extremes is good.

We have been told again and again that our children need a good diet of nutritional foods, consistent and proper exercise, proper medical care, a safe and sanitary environment, a high measure of self-esteem, and a good education. But how infrequently are we told that they also need character training, spiritual instruction and discipline, both preventive and corrective? More than anything else they need to learn to behave themselves and to be pleasing to God. Some passages to study that will help us in this vital part of life: Ephesians 5:22 – 6:4; Colossians 3:18-21; and the book of Proverbs.

It Is True

From an article by Dr. Jerry Bergman, who is on the science faculty at Northwest State College in Ohio: “An unbiased viewpoint forces the conclusion that America has now adopted a state religion, supported by billions of tax dollars and enforced by the power of law. That state religion is atheism.”

Consequences

Thoughts entertained, words uttered, and deeds done have consequences. Like seed that is sown, they bear fruit — pleasant or bitter, good or evil. Decisions made, choices selected, steps taken, courses begun bring us, in time, to the goals, the destinies to which they inevitably lead. Many are traveling toward goals and destinies of which they seem absolutely unaware or foolishly unconcerned — goals and destinies that will prove tragic and painful. Only God can see the end from the beginning; in His revealed Word He tries to tell us.

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