

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE AND LEADERSHIP

1. REVIEW

2. LEADERSHIP DISCIPLINE

- A. Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them. —PROVERBS 13:24 NLT
- B. MANY OF TODAY'S PARENTS BELIEVE THAT BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION... CORRECT CONSEQUENCES, CORRECTLY USED, WILL CORRECT A CHILD'S MISBEHAVIOR.
- C. One of the ARCHITECTS OF POSTMODERN PSYCHOLOGY, Professor B. F. Skinner, PROPOSED THAT HUMAN BEINGS WERE SUBJECT TO THE SAME LAWS OF BEHAVIOR AS WERE ANIMALS.
1. AS AN ATHEIST, PROFESSOR SKINNER BELIEVED THAT HUMANS ARE ANIMALS!
 2. In the 1960s, the MEDIA POPULARIZED HIS THEORIES, AND SOON AFTER PEOPLE WERE USING THE TERMS "BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION" AND "DISCIPLINE" SYNONYMOUSLY.
- D. BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION is what one does TO TRAIN AN ANIMAL to EITHER TO PERFORM A CERTAIN TASK or SUBSTITUTE AN ACCEPTABLE BEHAVIOR (for example, scratching at the door) FOR AN UNACCEPTABLE ONE (urinating on the floor).
1. The AIMS of BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION are ACHIEVED by MANIPULATING REWARD AND PUNISHMENT, and without a doubt, THE TECHNIQUE WORKS VERY WELL ON ANIMALS - horses, dogs, rats, and pigeons.
 2. HOWEVER, EVIDENCE THAT BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION WORKS RELIABLY ON HUMANS IS LACKING.
 - a. CORRECT CONSEQUENCES WILL CHANGE THE BEHAVIOR OF A DOG... BUT, A HUMAN CHILD (even a toddler) POSSESSES TWO ATTRIBUTES THAT AN ANIMAL DOES NOT POSSESS:
 - 1) FREE WILL
 - 2) A REBELLIOUS NATURE
 - b. THESE UNIQUE QUALITIES ENABLE A CHILD TO DO WHAT AN ANIMAL CANNOT DO:
 - 1) DENY THAT A CONSEQUENCE HAS ANY POWER OR RELEVANCE IN THEIR LIFE.

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3. **CONSEQUENCES, USED CORRECTLY, COMPEL ANIMALS TO CHANGE THEIR BEHAVIOR.**
 - a. BECAUSE THEY DO **NOT** POSSESS **FREE WILL**, **ANIMALS HAVE NO CHOICE** IN THE MATTER... **THEREFORE**, WHETHER THE CHANGE IN BEHAVIOR IS FOR THE **BETTER** OR **WORSE IS UP TO THE ANIMAL'S HANDLER**.
 4. **CONSEQUENCES CAUSE HUMANS TO MAKE CHOICES, BUT THOSE CHOICES ARE NOT ALWAYS FOR THE BETTER.**
 - a. With **HUMANS**, "CORRECT" CONSEQUENCES **CAN AND OFTEN DO BACKFIRE**.
 - b. SOMETIMES, AFTER EXPERIENCING A **POWERFUL CONSEQUENCE**, PEOPLE WILL BECOME **EVEN MORE DETERMINED TO RESIST ANY AND ALL ATTEMPTS TO MANIPULATE THEM**.
 - c. MOST PARENTS have seen **DEMONSTRATIONS OF THIS BEHAVIOR IN THEIR CHILD'S BEHAVIOR**.
 5. WHERE **CHILDREN** ARE CONCERNED, WHETHER A **CONSEQUENCE** BRINGS ABOUT **BEHAVIOR CHANGE IS NOT UP TO THE CHILD'S "HANDLER" (PARENT)...** **IT'S UP TO THE CHILD!**
 - a. ... AS OPPOSED TO AN **ANIMAL**.
 - b. A **CORRECT CONSEQUENCE MAY PERSUADE THE CHILD TO MAKE A "CORRECT" CHOICE... THEN AGAIN, IT MAY NOT!**
 6. **IT IS VITAL THAT CHILDREN UNDERSTAND THAT DIFFERENT CHOICES RESULT IN DIFFERENT CONSEQUENCES... BUT, THAT UNDERSTANDING DOES NOT GUARANTEE PROPER BEHAVIOR.**
- E. **POSTMODERN PSYCHOLOGICAL PARENTING** and **TRADITIONAL BIBLICAL CHILD REARING** HAVE **NOTHING IN COMMON...** IN FACT, THEY ARE **DIRECTLY OPPOSED** AND **MUTUALLY INCOMPATIBLE!!**
1. **POST MODERN PSYCHOLOGICAL PARENTING** WAS **DOOMED FROM THE BEGINNING**.
 2. **TRADITIONAL BIBLICAL CHILD REARING** **WORKED WELL FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS** AND WAS SHOWING NO SIGNS OF BREAKDOWN WHEN IT WAS **ABANDONED IN AMERICA** IN THE LATE **1960'S** AND EARLY **1970'S**.

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- a. YES, there were BAD PARENTS BEFORE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL PARENTING REVOLUTION, BUT... BAD PARENTS were NOT a PRODUCT of a BAD PARADIGM.
 - 1) They WERE A PRODUCT OF THEIR OWN BADNESS!
 - b. The BIBLICAL PARADIGM is PERFECT, BUT... IT DOES NOT PREVENT IMPERFECTION ON THE PART OF PARENTS.
 - c. The PSYCHOLOGICAL PARADIGM is NOT JUST IMPERFECT... BUT WAS A DISASTER FROM THE BEGINNING.
 - 1) AND BECAUSE IT IS BASED ON FALSE ASSUMPTIONS... IT CAN NOT BE FIXED.
- F. FOOD FOR THOUGHT: HUMANS are IMPERFECT; THEREFORE... WE CANNOT DO ANYTHING WITH PERFECTION.
- 1. BUT... IMPERFECT BEINGS FOLLOWING A PERFECT PLAN WILL DO A VASTLY BETTER JOB THAN IMPERFECT BEINGS FOLLOWING A PLAN THAT IS DEFECTIVE!
- G. SIXTY and more years ago in the history of Western civilization, the TYPICAL FOUR-YEAR-OLD CHILD was OBEDIENT, RESPONSIBLE, AND IN POSSESSION OF GOOD SELF-CONTROL.
- 1. HOW DID PARENTS ACCOMPLISH THAT?
 - a. The ANSWER to that QUESTION lies in the LITERAL MEANING of the word DISCIPLINE, which is "CREATE A DISCIPLE."
 - b. From that point of view, DISCIPLINE IS THE PROCESS BY WHICH PARENTS TRANSFORM A WILLFUL CHILD INTO A WILLING DISCIPLE... SOMEONE WHO WILL:
 - 1) LOOK UP TO THEM.
 - 2) TRUST THEM.
 - 3) SUSCRIBE TO THEIR VALUES.
 - 4) FOLLOW THEIR LEAD.
 - 5) THAT IS JUST WHAT JESUS DID!!
 - c. And it is ACCOMPLISHED, NOT BY MANIPULATING CONSEQUENCES... BUT BY PROVIDING THEIR CHILD WITH EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.
- H. NOTE: DISCIPLINE THAT TRANSFORMS A CHILD INTO A DISCIPLE is NOT:
- 1. REWARD-SHIP or
 - 2. PUNISHMENT-SHIP or
 - 3. METHOD-SHIP or

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4. CONSEQUENCE-SHIP

5. DISCIPLINE IS LEADERSHIP!

I. PRINCIPLES that DEFINE EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP and the QUALITIES that make GOOD LEADERS DO NOT CHANGE FROM ONE LEADERSHIP CONTEXT TO ANOTHER.

1. What makes for EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP in a CORPORATE or CHURCH SETTING also makes for EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP IN A CHILD-REARING SETTING.

a. IF YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO LEAD AN ADULT, THEN YOU UNDERSTAND HOW TO LEAD A CHILD...

1) AND YOU UNDERSTAND, THEREFORE HOW TO DISCIPLINE A CHILD.

b. NO ONE BECOMES AN EFFECTIVE LEADER OF ADULTS BY MASTERING VARIOUS BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION TECHNOLOGIES...

c. NOR IS THAT HOW TO BECOME AN EFFECTIVE LEADER OF CHILDREN.

d. LEADERSHIP IS AN ATTITUDE

1) LEADERSHIP IS A MIND-SET... NOT A METHOD.

J. EFFECTIVE LEADERS – PEOPLE WHO HAVE A KNACK FOR MAKING OTHER PEOPLE FOLLOW THEIR LEAD – ARE DISTINGUISHED NOT BY HOW CLEVERLY THEY MANIPULATE REWARD AND PUNISHMENT... BUT BY THE FOLLOWING:

1. They may disapprove of what you do, but they always approve of you (unconditional positive regard).

2. They lead through example.

3. They do not expect others to do what they have not themselves done or are unwilling to do.

4. They are enthusiastic concerning their vision, and their enthusiasm is communicable.

5. They motivate others to follow their lead through positive coaching and encouragement, by helping people reach down inside themselves and bring out the best in themselves.

6. And because they help people become the very best they can be, those people look up to them.

7. They are decisive and willing to make unpopular decisions.

8. They “stay the course” when the going gets rough.

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9. In summary, good leaders **ACT** as if they know what they are doing, where they are going, and how they are going to get there.
 10. In addition, good leaders act as if they have every confidence in the world that the people they are charged with leading will, in fact, follow.
- K. **"BUT RUSTY... there are TIMES when I DON'T KNOW WHAT I'M DOING, WHERE I'M GOING, OR HOW TO GET THERE."**
1. **THE KEY WORD IS ACT.**
 - a. **GOOD LEADERS ACT AS IF THEY KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING.**
 - b. Of course you DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING... MUCH LESS IT'S FINAL OUTCOME.
 - 1) NO GOOD LEADER DOES.
 2. **PROPER LEADERSHIP – INCLUDING THE DISCIPLINING OF A CHILD – IS PRIMARILY A MATTER OF PRESENTATION.**
 - a. **EFFECTIVE LEADERS are DECISIVE.**
 - b. **EFFECTIVE LEADERS PROJECT CONFIDENCE, PURPOSE, AND A POSITIVE OUTLOOK.**
 - c. **EFFECTIVE LEADERS COMMAND THE ATTENTION OF PEOPLE, AND THEY COMMAND PROPER BEHAVIOR ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE THEY LEAD.**
 - d. **EFFECTIVE LEADERS ALWAYS COMMAND IN A CALM and CONFIDENT MANNER.**
 3. **PEOPLE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS – INCLUDING PARENTS – WHO FIND THEMSELVES ALWAYS HAVING TO DEMAND ATTENTION and PROPER BEHAVIOR ARE DOING SO BECAUSE THEY HAVE NOT LEARNED HOW TO COMMAND.**
- L. **NEXT WEEK... THE "ROD" OF DISCIPLINE.**
1. **Proverbs 13:24 (NLT2) Those who spare the rod of discipline hate their children. Those who love their children care enough to discipline them.**

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3. 10 SCRIPTURAL VERSES THAT ARE ESSENTIAL TO UNDERSTANDING THE IMPORTANCE of PROPER DISCIPLINE TO A CHILD'S UPBRINGING.

A. DISCIPLINE AND LOVE ARE TWO SIDES OF THE SAME COIN

1. Proverbs 3:12 “For the LORD corrects those he loves, just as a father corrects a child in whom he delights”.
2. PUNISHMENT IS NEVER PLEASANT, BUT PRODUCES GREAT BENEFIT FOR THE PERSON PUNISHED
 - a. Hebrews 12:11 (NLT) “No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way”.
3. PUNISHMENT IS ESSENTIAL TO PROPER DISCIPLINE
 - a. Hebrews 12:6 (NLT) “For the LORD disciplines those he loves, and he punishes each one he accepts as his child.”
4. PROPER DISCIPLINE VALIDATES A CHILD
 - a. Hebrews 12:8 (NLT) If God doesn’t discipline you as he does all of his children, it means that you are illegitimate and are not really his children at all.
5. OBEDIENT CHILDREN ARE PLEASING TO THEIR PARENTS
 - a. Proverbs 29:17 (NLT) Discipline your children, and they will give you peace of mind and will make your heart glad.
6. CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS
 - a. Colossians 3:20 (NLT) Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.
7. OBEDIENCE WILL BRING BLESSINGS TO OUR CHILDREN
 - a. Proverbs 1:8-9 (NLT) My child, listen when your father corrects you. Don’t neglect your mother’s instruction. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and be a chain of honor around your neck

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8. **THE MOST OBEDIENT CHILDREN ARE ALSO THE HAPPIEST, MOST SELF-RESPECTING CHILDREN**
 - a. **Proverbs 15:32 (NLT)** He who ignores discipline despises himself, but whoever heeds correction gains understanding
9. **A LACK OF DISCIPLINE CONTRIBUTES TO DEATH... IN THE ETERNAL SENSE**
 - a. **Proverbs 19:18 (NLT)** Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death
10. **DISCIPLINE IS THE WAY TO ETERNAL LIFE**
 - a. **Proverbs 6:23 (NLT)** These commands are a lamp, this teaching is a light, and the corrections of discipline are the way to life.