

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

LEADERSHIP DISCIPLINE III

1. **REVIEW: EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP DISCIPLINE: PART II**
 - A. **BIBLICAL LEADERSHIP DISCIPLINE –VS- BEHAVIOR MODIFICATION** (POST-MODERN PSYCOLOGICAL PARENTING)
 - B. **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**.
 - C. **NOTE: DISCIPLINE THAT TRANSFORMS A CHILD INTO A DISCIPLE** is **NOT:**
 1. **REWARD-SHIP** or
 2. **PUNISHMENT-SHIP** or
 3. **METHOD-SHIP** or
 4. **CONSEQUENCE-SHIP**
 5. **DISCIPLINE THAT TRANSFORMS A CHILD INTO A DISCIPLE IS LEADERSHIP!**
 - D. **EFFECTIVE LEADERS** – PEOPLE WHO HAVE A KNACK FOR MAKING OTHER PEOPLE FOLLOW THEIR LEAD – ARE DISTINGUISHED **NOT** BY HOW CLEAVERLY 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**.

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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.
 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 that the people they are charged with LEADING WILL, in fact, FOLLOW.
- E. The WORD used in SCRIPTURE to denote the importance of PARENTAL LEADERSHIP is "ROD."
1. It's going to come as a SURPRISE to many to learn that "THE ROD" of Bible verses such as... Proverbs 13:24: "He who s pares THE ROD hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to DISCIPLINE him"... IS NOT A SPANKING!
 - a. IT IS LEADERSHIP!
 2. To "SPARE THE ROD" is to be LAX IN LEADERSHIP TO YOUR CHILD.
 - a. NOTE: That LOVE and LEADERSHIP ARE INSEPERABLE.
 3. The WORD used in SCRIPTURE to denote the IMPORTANCE of PARENTAL LEADERSHIP is "ROD."
- F. In SCRIPTURE, "ROD" IS:
1. A SYMBOL OF LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY (for example, a king's scepter),

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2. A STRAIGHT STICK USED TO ENSURE THAR MEASUREMENTS WERE CONSISTENT AND TRUE,
 3. A THRESHING STICK USED TO SEPARATE USEFUL GRAIN FROM USLESS CHAFF,
 4. A STAFF USED TO HERD DOMESTICATED ANIMALS.
 5. Used METAPHORICALLY, therefore, "ROD-LIKE DISCIPLINE"...
 - a. EMANATES FROM A LEGITIMATE AUTHORITY,
 - b. IS CONSISTENT AND TRUE (it does not waver),
 - c. SEPARATES RIGHT BEHAVIOR FROM WRONG BEHAVIOR,
 - d. ESTABLISHES BOUNDARIES AND COMPELS ACTION OR CHANGE.
 6. TAKEN TOGETHER, "ROD" IS A REFERENCE TO LEADERSHIP!
 - a. UNDERSTANDING THE BIBLICAL USES OF "RODS" ALLOWS US TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IS MEANT BY "THE ROD OF DISCIPLINE".
- G. The mere fact that A PARENT SPANKS does NOT mean their DISCIPLINE has been "ROD-LIKE".
1. A SPANKING DELIVERED IMPULSIVELY OR IN ANGER, DEFINITELY DOES NOT MEET THE BIBLICAL STANDARD.
 - a. The ANGRY, out-of-control parent is NOT acting RIGHTEOUSLY.
 - 1) THEY ARE ACTING SELF-RIGHTEOUSLY.
 - 2) THAT TYPE OF SPANKING IS AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT PAUL WAS SPEAKING TO IN..
 - i. Ephesians 6:4 (NASB) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
 1. = DISCIPLE THEM!
 - ii. THAT SCRIPTURE CERTAINLY FITS WITH SPANKINGS THAT ARE DELIVERED IMPULSIVELY AND OUT OF ANGER.

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2. UNDERSTANDING the “ROD” also leads to the realization that DISCIPLINE and PUNISHMENT are NOT one and THE SAME.
 3. There WILL BE TIMES when it will be NECESSARY, RIGHT, and JUST for you to PUNISH your child,
 4. BUT, PUNATIVE EXPRESSIONS OF A PARENT’S LEADERSHIP SHOULD BE THE EXCEPTION AND NOT THE RULE.
- H. THE ISSUE OF SPANKING IS A CONTROVERSIAL ONE, AND ULTIMATELY IS BEST LEFT TO INDIVIDUAL PARENTS.
1. WHATEVER THE DECISION, SPANKING SHOULD BE VIEWED IN THE CONTEXT OF LEADERSHIP PARENTING.
- I. A FEW FACTS REGARDING SPANKING:
1. SPANKINGS seem to be MOST EFFECTIVE between ages TWO and SIX.
 - a. PARENTS who are SPANKING children OLDER THAN SIX, especially if the spankings are FREQUENT, NEED TO TAKE SOBER STOCK OF THEIR OVERALL APPROACH TO DISCIPLINE.
 2. SPANKING IS MOST EFFECTIVE WHEN PAIRED WITH ANOTHER CONSEQUENCE:
 - a. SUCH AS REMOVAL OF PRIVILEGE.
- J. WHAT COMES FIRST... CONSEQUENCES OR LEADERSHIP DISCIPLINE?
1. DISCUSS
2. CONFIRMING CONSISTENCY
- A. Ephesians 6:4 “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”.
1. In his letter to the Ephesians, Paul, said: WHEN PARENTS RAISE CHILDREN ACCORDING TO ANY OTHER PARADIGM THAN THE BIBICAL PARADIGM... THEY WILL HAVE AN INCREASE OF PROBLEMS:

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- a. THEY WILL BECOME EXASPERATED,
- b. AND, THEY WILL EXASPERATE THEIR CHILDREN.
2. PAUL SAID, ALL THAT EXASPERATION CAN BE AVOIDED IF PARENTS BRING UP THEIR CHILDREN "IN THE TRAINING AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD".
3. As PAUL WAS JESUS' DISCIPLE... SO A CHILD IS TO BE THEIR PARENTS' DISCIPLE.
 - a. The EXASPERATION of which Paul spoke PREVENTS DISCIPLESHP.
 - b. INSTEAD OF causing a CHILD to WANT TO LISTEN, EXASPERATION CAUSES A CHILD TO WANT TO BE SOMEWHERE ELSE.
 - c. INSTEAD OF bringing about GOOD BEHAVIOR, EXASPERATION'S INCONSISTENCY brings about A CONFUSION OF BEHAVIOR... GOOD AND BAD.
 - d. INSTEAD OF CAUSING a CHILD TO LOOK UP WITH RESPECT AND ADMIRATION, EXASPERATION CAUSES A CHILD TO REGARD THEIR PARENT AS AN ANNOYANCE.
3. THERE IS REALLY NO SUCH THING AS THE SO-CALLED "ARGUMENATIVE CHILD"
 - A. THERE ARE ONLY CHILDREN WHO HAVE LEARNED THAT:
 1. THEIR PARENT WILL ARGUE WITH THEM, and
 2. THE OUTCOMES OF THE ARGUMENTS ARE LIKELY TO BE IN THE CHILD'S FAVOR.
 - B. IN OTHER WORDS.... THESE CHILDREN SIMPLY TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE OPPORTUNITIES THEIR ARGUMANTATIVE PARENTS PRESENT TO THEM!
 - C. THESE PARENTS ALL MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE:
 1. WHEN THEIR CHILDREN DEMAND EXPLANATIONS... THEY GIVE EXPLANATIONS.

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2. WHEN THEIR CHILDREN DO NOT LIKE THE DECISIONS THEIR PARENTS HAVE MADE... THEIR PARENTS TRY TO PERSUADE THEIR CHILDREN TO AGREE WITH THEM.
 - a. THAT ATTEMPT HAS NEVER, AND WILL NEVER, WORK BECAUSE OF A VERY SIMPLE FACT:
 - b. IF A CHILD DOES NOT LIKE A DECISION THEIR PARENT HAS MADE... THEY ARE NOT GOING TO LIKE THE REASON THE PARENT GIVES FOR THE DECISION...
 - 1) AND NOTHING THE PARENT SAYS IS GOING TO CHANGE THAT.
3. ARGUMENTATIVE PARENTS CANNOT SEEM TO ACCEPT THAT REALITY.
 - a. THEY THINK THAT THEY CAN EXPLAIN THEMSELVES CLEVERLY ENOUGH TO CHANGE THEIR CHILD WHO DOES NOT LIKE THEIR DECISION INTO A CHILD WHO LIKES IT... WRONG!!
 - b. FOR SOME STRANGE REASON, THESE PARENTS THINK THEY CAN SUCCEED WHERE NO PARENT BEFORE THEM HAS EVER SUCCEEDED!
4. ARGUMENTATIVE PARENTS, THEREFORE, ARE DREAMERS.
 - a. THEY HAVE THEIR HEADS IN THE CLOUDS OF IDEALISM.
5. A CHILD, BY DEFINITION, CANNOT UNDERSTAND OR APPRECIATE, AN ADULT POINT OF VIEW... AND NO AMOUNT OF WORDS WILL CHANGE THAT.
 - a. PARENTS WHO THINK THEY CAN SUCCEED WHERE NO PARENT HAS SUCCEEDED BEFORE HAVE ONLY THEMSELVES TO BLAME WHEN THEY FAIL.
6. LIKEWISE, THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS A CHILD WHO CANNOT TAKE "NO" FOR AN ANSWER.
 - a. THERE ARE ONLY CHILDREN WHO HAVE LEARNED THAT WHEN THEIR PARENTS SAY "NO", ALL THEY HAVE

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TO DO IS THROW CONNIPION FITS... AND “NO” WILL PROBABLY CHANGE TO “OH, ALL RIGHT”!

- 1) THESE PARENTS CANNOT SAY “NO” AND MEAN IT...
SO:
- 2) THEY SAY THEIR CHILD IS ARGUMENTATIVE
- 3) AND, THEY BLAME THEIR CHILDREN FOR THEIR OWN SHORTCOMINGS.

D. JESUS SAID...

1. Matthew 5:37 (NASB) "But let your statement be, 'Yes, yes' or 'No, no'; anything beyond these is of evil.

2. JAMES SAID...

- a. James 5:12 (NASB) But above all, my brethren, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or with any other oath; but **your yes is to be yes, and your no, no**, so that you may not fall under judgment.

4. **NOTE: THERE ARE TIMES WHEN GIVING YOUR CHILD “THE REASON WHY” ARE REASONABLE.**

A. WHEN “WHY” OR “WHY NOT” ARE INFORMATIONAL AND NOT ARGUMENTATIVE.

B. OTHERS?

5. **DISCUSS: “BECAUSE I SAID SO”**

A. “BECAUSE I SAID SO” is a STATEMENT OF LEADERSHIP.

B. IT AFFIRMS A PARENT’S AUTHORITY.

C. IT SAYS “THE DISCUSSION IS OVER”.

D. AND FOR THOSE REASONS, IT PREVENTS ARGUMENTS BETWEEN PARENT AND CHILD.

1. AND THAT IS ALWAYS A GOOD THING:

a. FOR THE PARENT

b. AND FOR THE CHILD.

6. **POLITICANS –VS- LEADERS**

A. POLITICIANS EXPLAIN THEMSELVES BECAUSE THEY’RE TRYING TO PERSUADE PEOPLE TO AGREE WITH THEM.

1. POLITICIANS WANT PEOPLE’S APPROVAL.

B. LEADERS JUST STATE THEMSELVES.

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1. **LEADERS** ARE NOT TRYING TO PERSUADE: RATHER, THEY ARE EXERCISING COMMAND.
 - a. **LEADERS** ARE NOT LOOKING FOR APPROVAL.
 - C. **POLITICIANS** ARE AFRAID TO MAKE UNPOPULAR DECISIONS.
 - D. **LEADERS** ARE NOT.
 - E. IN THE FACE OF UPROAR OVER AN UNPOPULAR DECISION... A **POLITICIAN** IS LIKELY TO REVERSE COURSE.
 - F. IN THE FACE OF UPROAR OVER AN UNPOPULAR DECISION, A **LEADER** STAYS THE COURSE.
 - G. SADLY, SOME PARENTS ARE MORE LIKE **POLITICIANS** THAN THEY ARE **LEADERS**.
 - H. WHAT ABOUT YOU?
 1. ARE YOU MORE OF A **POLITICAL PAREN**?
 2. OR, ARE YOU MORE OF A **LEADER PARENT**?
7. DISCUSSION