

## A Summary of Proverbs Concerning Spanking a child

**Prov. 13:24:** *He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently.*

- Parents withholding discipline from their children treat them as an enemy by unwittingly withholding what is essential for their child's well-being!
- Parents can mistakenly feel inflicting pain by spanking is unloving.
- Spanking is always motivated by, and done in the context of sacrificial love for the child.
- Spanking is only one facet of discipline (indicated by meaning of the word "discipline")
- Biblical Spanking is contrary to man's wisdom. (implied by its having to be taught as part of the God's wisdom in proverbs)
- Man's wisdom contradicts biblical spanking either by abuse of it (Eph. 6:4- which angers a child) or absence of it (Prov. 29:15 – withholding it leaves a child in his foolishness).
- Biblical spanking will 'rescue' a child from premature death caused by foolishness. Its absence indicates NOT rescuing a child, so that he/she grows up suffering harm in many ways.
- Biblical spanking reflects God's and is patterned after the manner God loves His children. (Deut 8:5; Prov. 3:12; Heb. 12:5-11).
- Discipline must be diligent. It must be started early and done consistently. It's hard work.
- Parents have authority and responsibility to discipline their own child.

**Proverbs 19:18:** *Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death.*

- Each parent is responsible to discipline their own child.
- Parents can easily lose hope and therefore need Scriptural encouragement!
- Parents need to be reminded that God can change their child! Trust in God.
- Parents who refuse to discipline their children are unwittingly participating in their calamity.

**Proverbs 22:15:** *Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.*

- Foolish, evil behavior is rooted in a foolish heart. Behavior flows from the heart.
- The sinful foolishness of a child is inherent. It is ultimately caused by their environment.
- The foolish sinful nature of a child is incorrigible. It is bound in the child. It will not be removed without external forces at work. The problem is so imbedded in the nature of the child that it is impossible to change apart from God/

**Proverbs 23:13-16** *Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die. You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol. My son, if your heart is wise, My own heart also will be glad; And my inmost being will rejoice When your lips speak what is right.*

- Parents have authority to discipline their child. “Hold back” is used of those who have authority to do something but refuse to do it.
- Parents are responsible to God to Biblically spank their child when necessary.
- Spanking is an integral, necessary part of child training.
- Biblical spanking is not the starting or central point of child training.
- Biblical spanking is profitable. It gives the child wisdom and extricates him from harm, even death caused by his foolishness. It will deliver not exasperate them.
- Biblical spanking will not harm the child.
- Biblical spanking does cause short-term pain for the child, yet yields long-term benefit.
- Discipline includes but is not limited to the aspect of the ‘rod’, that is, physical punishment.
- Parents will be tempted to hold back from spanking and find it contrary to their own wisdom.
- Biblical spanking presupposes instruction.
- Spanking is for the purpose of training and educating (meaning of the word ‘discipline’) A parent’s heart must be to teach their child wisdom (23:15-16). A parent is not motivated by anger, etc. but by a burden for the heart of the child to acquire wisdom.
- The mark of a wise parent (the theme of Proverbs is gaining wisdom -1:7-8; 2:1-14, etc). is physically correcting of a child by spanking.
- Biblical spanking is not intuitive. A parent must be instructed.
- If spanking is held back by a parent, a means of imparting wisdom to the child is taken away. Can he still get wisdom? Yes, but it is more difficult and less likely. It’s like taking away instruction. Can a child still learn? Yes. But it’s more difficult and less likely to happen.
- Biblical spanking always is rooted in love and modeled after God’s loving discipline of us. Hebrews 12:6; Prov. 3:12

Proverbs 29:15<sup>17</sup> *The rod and reproof give wisdom, But a child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.*

- Biblical spanking is only a *part* of the training of a child
  - Biblical spanking is an *integral* part of training a child.
  - Biblical spanking is *profitable* for your child. It gives wisdom.
  - Biblical spanking is part of *God’s means* of developing causing joy to parents.
  - Absence of Biblical spanking will leave a child to his own foolish way. There is a necessity to physically intervene to correct a child’s harmful way.
- Absence of connection is equated with child abandonment