

# THE PROPER MOTIVE FOR BIBLICAL DISCIPLINE

*“the peaceable fruit of righteousness...”*

**TEXT:** *Deut. 6:4-7 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5, And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6, And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7, And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.*

**INTRODUCTION:** The subject is discipline, the teacher is God the Father, our true parent and we, His children, are the students. How we learn as students and children from God will determine how we will teach our own children. If we submit and learn daily as children, we will be able to teach our children also.

## I. **GOD’S MOTIVE IS \_\_\_\_\_.**

- **PERFECT EXAMPLE:** *“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.”* God is absolute. This fact is the basis for this passage. There is one God. He is absolute in His persona and authority. (v.4)
- **PERFECT \_\_\_\_\_:** The parent, as God’s agent to discipline the children, should have a right relationship with God, (v.5) *And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.* Remember, this verse is quoted by the Lord Jesus as being the basic responsibility of man toward God. (Matt. 22:37; Mark 12:30; Luke 10:27)
  - Christian discipline is a way of life. *“The life of the teacher is the life he is teaching.”* The parents should be true models for the children according to verse five.
  - What the parents teach should be backed up by their lives.
- **PERFECT \_\_\_\_\_:** Biblical discipline by Godly parents is not merely an ideal, it is a command, (vs. 6,7) *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: 7, And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.”*
- **PERFECT \_\_\_\_\_:** Biblical discipline is a living program involving every waking moment that is to be carried out “diligently”, verse 7. In its correct form, Biblical discipline is a way of life which is carried out every day, (v.7) and at every opportunity. (Deut. 6:20-23) *“And when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What mean the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you? 21, Then thou*

*shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand: 22, And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes: 23, And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.*

## II. MAN'S MOTIVE IS \_\_\_\_\_.

Why do we discipline? (Ask the question from the congregation)

- Out of frustration because the children interfere with what they are doing.
- Out of concern for the children.
- The desire of the parents to be successful. (Selfishness)
- There is only one motive that will give God the honor He deserves, and thereby secure His greatest blessings.
- BECAUSE IT IS \_\_\_\_\_ – (Deut. 6:18) *“And thou shalt do that which is right and good in the sight of the LORD: that it may be well with thee, and that thou mayest go in and possess the good land which the LORD sware unto thy fathers,”*

## III. OUR MOTIVE IS BECAUSE IT'S RIGHT.

The principles of Biblical discipline will work to some degree whether or not you have exactly the right motive. When consistently and lovingly applied, they will work for parents who lack spiritual qualifications. “Children and Christians thrive best in an atmosphere of genuine love, girded by reasonable and consistent discipline. “Don’t use the lack of either to withhold or postpone proper discipline. (James 4:17) *“Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”*

- WRITTEN PLAN - Lay out and establish the parents’ responsibility for carrying out a living program of Biblical discipline. (Written and agreed upon by both parents)
- BIBLICAL PROOF - Establish and furnish a Biblical basis of why and how to do it. (2Tim. 3:17) *“That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”*
- PARENTAL DISOBEDIENCE – Because God has commanded parents to discipline their children, IT IS A SIN NOT TO.
  - Biblical Example: (1Sam. 2:12-20) The failure to properly discipline is seen in the lives of Eli and his sons.
  - His sons were: Sons of Belial – Self worship
  - His sons knew not the Lord. – (2:12)
  - His sons were priest by birth, (Keep and raised the church, in a believer’s home and in Christian school.) So why did they go wrong?
  - They are greedy and self-satisfied. (Parents taught them to be that way by a lack of discipline.) (Isa. 51:11) Therefore the redeemed of the LORD shall return and come with singing unto Zion; and everlasting joy shall be

upon their head: they shall obtain gladness and joy; and sorrow and mourning shall flee away.

- Their character is revealed in verse 12. "Now the sons of Eli were sons of Belial; they knew not the LORD."
- Their gross selfishness which is also typical of undisciplined children. (v. 17) Wherefore the sin of the young men was very great before the LORD: for men abhorred the offering of the LORD.
- Beginning in verse 22 through verse 25, we are told of Eli's reproof of his sons' attitudes and actions. (TOO LATE!)
- Verse 24 shows that Eli is aware not only of his sons' sin but also of the influence it had upon others. (IT ALWAYS INFECTS OTHERS)
- In verse 29, a man of God asked Eli the telling question that exposes the dreadful sin of permissiveness. (1Sam. 2:29) *"Wherefore kick ye at my sacrifice and at mine offering, which I have commanded in my habitation; and honourest thy sons above me, to make yourselves fat with the chiefest of all the offerings of Israel my people?"*

#### **CONCLUSION:**

Allowing children to break God's commands, to dishonor His testimony, to rebel against authority, uncorrected and unpunished, is a form of idolatry. It clearly makes idols of the children by giving them preference above God. And because it creates rebellion in the children, it makes them witches and idolaters. (1Sam. 15:22,23) *"And Samuel said, Hath the LORD as great delight in burnt offerings and sacrifices, as in obeying the voice of the LORD? Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams. 23, For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*

As disciples of the Lord Jesus Christ, and children of God, the parents should establish a covenant with God to: "... *Provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord,*" (Eph. 6:4) BECAUSE IT IS RIGHT!