

Loving Discipline 2021-05-29

Hebrews 12:5-11

⁵ *And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons?*

*“My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord,
nor be weary when reprovved by him.*

⁶ *For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he receives.”*

⁷ *It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. ⁹ Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰ For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. ¹¹ For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

None of us run the race as we should, we need God's discipline to help overcome what impedes us running the race.

- Discipline proves God's love and our sonship. Hebrews 12:5-6, Revelation 3:19

Difference between divine punishment and divine discipline.

- **punishment**, God judges His enemies with condemnation/wrath, retribution as goal
 - Father punished Jesus Christ for us....gospel.
- **discipline**, Father loves His children with righteousness/holiness as goal.
 - Hand that disciplines you is hand that loves you.

Divine discipline is the mark of genuine sonship....discipline your own children not others.

- Discipline is part of the Holy Spirit making us ready for our inheritance.
 - Then illegitimate children = no discipline and no inheritance.

Discipline essential part of father-son relationship. Hebrews 12:7, Ephesians 6:4

- good fathers try to train/discipline in love but often fail.
 - Do/shouldn't, not do/should, irritation/anger,
 - Ask for forgiveness and forgive parents for their failures.
- If abusive father, it is hard to believe God is loving when He disciplines you.
 - God perfectly disciplines without mistakes always in unconditional love with pure motives.

Greek paideia (pi-dA-uh) = disciplinary correction: used of training children for:

- Correct: not repeat same mistakes;
- Protect: prevent from sinning;
- Educate: self and others through your experience;
- Mature: grow in godly character/Holy Spirit fruit. Job's afflictions

All discipline is painful, never easy/pleasant for the moment; not meant to discourage but to produce fruit of peace/right profitable for eternity. Hebrews 12:5, 8

- Trials/difficulties are fact of life, but how we respond to them is choice.
 - Illegitimate children of God regard lightly (not big/got away with) or crushed.
 - true child treats all difficulties as training opportunities to shape character, grow/learn from God. Hebrews 12:10-11, 1b, John 15:2

Greek “trained” = English gymnasium. Indicates physical training or exercise.

- meant literally to practice naked: athlete stripped all needless weight/encumbrances
 - idea here: voluntarily submit with the right attitude to goal of discipline.
- true child submits and sees hard things that happen in life as designed by God to grow us in holiness. Revelation 3:19, Job 1:21-22, 2:10b

Discipline proves God’s love and our sonship.

- It’s out of love, God disciplines all His children, godly and irresponsible, for growth in Christlikeness.
 - Examine heart, submit to God, desire to learn/grow in holiness.
 - If earthly father’s imperfect discipline beneficial, then surely Heavenly Father’s perfect discipline infinitely more profitable.