

FATHERS: (Proverbs 17:6)

- The glory of children is their father

DISCIPLINE: (Proverbs 22:6, 22:15, 29:15; James 1:19-20)

- Children need discipline (physical & verbal)
- A child left to himself goes in the wrong direction
- Even good parents can have bad children

PHYSICAL RESTRAINT: (Proverbs 29:17; Hebrews 12:5-6, 12:11)

- A father who loves his children will discipline them
- Physical discipline is more important early in a child’s life
- Physical discipline should be appropriate to their age
- Never spank in uncontrolled anger
- Never punish children in public

VERBAL CORRECTION: (Psalms 119:98-100, 119:104; 1 Thessalonians 5:14; 2 Timothy 3:16)

- More admonition (verbal discipline) needs to be done as the child grows
- Wisdom comes through learning and applying God’s Word
- Learning through instruction eliminates the need for physical discipline
- Instruction must be varied with each child (children are different)
- As a child grows, a father’s influence increases if he uses verbal correction

APPLICATION OF DISCIPLINE: (Deuteronomy 4:9-10; Joshua 4:21-24; Proverbs 15:1-2, 29:5; Joel 1:2-3; Romans 2:3, 14:23; 1 Corinthians 14:8; Ephesians 4:15, 4:22-24, 4:29-30, 4:31-32, 6:4; Colossians 3:16; Hebrews 10:24; James 1:7-8)

- Discipline should be: honest, gentle, clear, consistent, confident, and biblical
- Fathers should discipline in love and teaching the sanctification process
- Remind the child of God’s past blessings, attack the problem (not the child), and act (don’t react)
- Both parents should be in agreement

CULTURAL ERRORS: (these produce angry and rebellious children)

- The permissive home
- The dictatorial home
- The new Christian home

ADVICE FOR STEP-FAMILIES:

- Have a high view of marriage
- Own your personal responsibility
- Remember, the battle is in the heart and mind

HOMEWORK:

- **Memorize:** Proverbs 22:6

- **Read:** Ephesians 4:29
 - What three things should we consider before speaking?
 - How can this help you discipline your children?
 - How can you apply this verse to your life?

- **Read:** Handout on Psalm 119:18
 - Consider the 4 parts of understanding and applying this verse (observation, interpretation, application, prayer)
 - How does this help you understand Ephesians 4:29 better?
 - In what ways will praying a verse to God help you apply it to your life?

- **Analyze:** Study Ephesians 6:4 in the same manner as the handout (observation, interpretation, application, prayer)
 - What new insight did you gain?

- **Practice:** Apply Ephesians 4:29 to your daily speech.
 - As you apply this verse, note any differences in how you feel and how people respond to your speech.

Memory Verse: Proverbs 22:6 (661) Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Memory Hint: Have a memory partner. Give your memory cards to someone else and have them quiz you on the verses and their address. Do the same for them. Meet often to keep each other accountable, and to encourage one another.