DO NOT BE AFRAID TO DISCIPLINE YOUR CHILD

We are living in a time when moral standards have fallen drastically, and the decline continues to spread—especially among young people and children. Many adults quickly say, *“Children of today have changed!”* Yet the truth is, it is not the children who have changed—it is the parents. The children are the same; what has changed is the quality of parenting and the spiritual authority within the home.

God designed the family as the first institution of learning. The home is meant to be the first “church,” where children are taught to fear God and live by His Word. Unfortunately, many modern parents have neglected this sacred responsibility. They provide food, clothing, and education—but forget the most important element of all: godly discipline and spiritual formation.

1. Parenting Is More Than Provision

A child is not like a pet that only needs food and a place to sleep. You can neglect a cat or a dog for a year, and it will still be the same animal. But a child is different—he or she must be raised,

not just kept. Parenting is a sacred calling that involves shaping the mind, the heart, and the soul of a child.

The Bible clearly shows that raising a child involves much more than meeting physical needs. It includes teaching, correction, and godly example. Scripture says:

> *Proverbs 22:6 (NKJV)*
>
> *“Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.”*

This verse reveals that a child does not automatically choose the right path. He must be trained, guided, and corrected in love. If a parent fails to take that role, the world and the devil will quickly take over that responsibility. Satan will use television, the internet, peers, and ungodly influences to “educate” the child in his own ways.

As the Lord said through Moses:

> *Deuteronomy 6:6–7 (NKJV)*
>
> *“And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”*

This means that spiritual training should be continuous and intentional. Parents are not merely caretakers—they are shepherds appointed by God to lead their children in righteousness.

2. The Necessity of Discipline

One of the most misunderstood aspects of parenting today is discipline. Many parents confuse love with permissiveness. They think that showing love means never saying “no” or never correcting wrongdoing. But true love corrects; it does not indulge sin.

The Bible says:

> *Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV)*
>
> *“Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction will drive it far from him.”*

A child is not born wise; foolishness is part of his fallen human nature. Ever since Adam’s disobedience in Eden, every human being is born with a sinful tendency (Romans 5:12). That is why a child must be corrected and guided toward righteousness. Discipline does not destroy—it builds character, instills wisdom, and teaches accountability.

> *Proverbs 23:13–14 (NIV)*
>
> *“Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you punish them with the rod, they will not die. Punish them with the rod and save them from death.”*

The “rod” in Scripture symbolizes firm and loving correction—not abuse or cruelty. Godly discipline is always motivated by love, not anger. When done correctly, it turns a child’s heart away from rebellion and toward righteousness.

3. God Himself Disciplines His Children

We must never forget that discipline originates from God Himself. A father who refuses to correct his child misrepresents the very nature of God. Scripture declares:

> *Hebrews 12:6–7 (NKJV)*
>
> *“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives. If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten?”*

Even the most faithful servants of God, like King David, were

disciplined when they sinned. When David took Uriah’s wife and caused his death, God sent the prophet Nathan to rebuke him (2 Samuel 12). Though David repented, he still faced divine consequences. Through that correction, David’s heart was purified, and he later testified:

> *Psalm 119:67 (NKJV)*
>
> *“Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now I keep Your word.”*

Discipline, therefore, is not a sign of rejection but of love and belonging. God disciplines us not to destroy us, but to restore us to the path of holiness. Likewise, when parents discipline their children in love, they reflect God’s own nature.

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4. Discipline Must Be Balanced with Love and Wisdom

It is important to emphasize that discipline must be applied with discernment. The goal is correction, not harm. There are

moments when a child needs firm rebuke, others when he needs gentle instruction, and still others when he simply needs encouragement.

The apostle Paul warns:

> *Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)*
>
> *“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”*

This means discipline should always be rooted in love and accompanied by teaching. If we discipline without instruction, we produce fear; but if we instruct without discipline, we produce rebellion. A wise parent seeks both balance and prayerful guidance from the Holy Spirit.

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5. The Ultimate Goal of Discipline

Godly discipline shapes the heart to reflect the character of

Christ. The book of Hebrews explains the purpose of divine correction:

> *Hebrews 12:11 (NIV)*
>
> *“No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.”*

Every parent who disciplines in love participates in God’s redemptive work—helping to form the image of Christ in the child. The goal is not mere obedience but spiritual transformation—that the child may grow into a man or woman who fears God and walks uprightly.

Final Exhortation

Parenting is a sacred stewardship. The Bible says:

> *Proverbs 23:24 (NIV)*
>
> *Do not fear to discipline“The father of a righteous child has great joy; a man who fathers a wise son rejoices in him.”*

Do not fear to discipline your child. Do it prayerfully, lovingly, and wisely. In time, that same child will rise and call you blessed (Proverbs 31:28). Your correction today may be the reason your child walks in righteousness tomorrow.

Let us therefore follow God’s pattern—training our children in truth, correcting them in love, and leading them by example—so that they may become instruments of grace in this world.

Closing Prayer

> *Heavenly Father, thank You for entrusting us with the gift of children. Grant us the wisdom to raise them in Your fear and righteousness. Help us to balance love with discipline, gentleness with firmness, and grace with truth. May our homes reflect Your divine order and holiness. In Jesus’ name we pray, Amen.*

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