

# BIBLICAL CHILD DISCIPLINE

# FOCUS

- ◉ **Primarily, we are dealing with younger children (<8). Why?**
- ◉ **If you don't have control over your children by their age 4, you have a major uphill battle!**

# WHY IS DISCIPLINE NEGLECTED?

- ◉ Culturally-imbibed idea of innate goodness of all people
- ◉ Related: governmental inclination to see it as abuse
- ◉ Christians: misunderstanding of God's sovereignty

# METHOD OF DISCIPLINE

- ◉ Our nature determines the method
- ◉ We are made in the image of God (*imago Dei*).
  - More than just behavior change
  - We must not “crush” them
  - They have a conscience; use it
  - Seek to restore the image in character and behavior

# METHOD OF DISCIPLINE

## ⦿ What our goal is *not*

- Not just so we can say our children are under control (pride)
- Not so we can have a quiet, orderly house
- Not to “cement” them into morality
- Our ultimate goal: salvation

# METHOD OF DISCIPLINE

- ◉ Our nature determines the method
- ◉ We are made in the image of Adam (cf. Gen. 1:26 w/ 5:1-3)
  - Children are born sinners, with the image of God defaced and unwanted.
  - Gen. 6:5; 8:21; Ps. 58:3; 51:5.

# METHOD OF DISCIPLINE

## ○ Proverbs 22:15

### ■ “foolishness”

- Not “silliness” or “immaturity”
- Rather, to be defined as Proverbs uses the word.
- See Psalm 5:5; 14:1; 53:1; 69:5; Proverbs 1:7; 12:5; 13:19.
- Thus, depravity and sinfulness are bound up in your child’s heart.
- Discipline is the method to save them.

# CONCLUSIONS

- ◉ Discipline is spiritually necessary
- ◉ Discipline forces behavior contrary to nature
- ◉ Reason alone will not work
- ◉ If you are a believer, your children are your enemies. Discipline will teach them to love you.