



# Biblical Parenting 2: Parenting Small Children

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# Goal & Method for Small Children

## 1. The Main Goal in Parenting Small Children is *Obedience*.

- “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Eph. 6:1).
- “Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution” (1 Pet. 2:13).
- “Do everything without complaining or arguing” (Phil. 2:14).

## 2. The Primary Method for Parenting Small Children is *Discipline*.

- “Training to act in accordance with rules;”
- “Punishment inflicted by way of correction and training;”
- “To bring to a state of order and obedience by training and control.”



# Parenting Small Children: Discipline

- Why Discipline is Necessary:
  - “My son, do not despise the Lord’s discipline or be weary of his reproof, for the Lord reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.” *Proverbs 3:11-12*
  - “The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately sick.” *Jeremiah 17:9*
  - “Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.” *Psalms 51:5*
  - “Discipline your son, and he will give you peace; he will bring delight to your soul.” *Proverbs 29:17*

“The child’s problem is not an information deficit. His problem is that he is a sinner. There are things within the heart of the sweetest little baby that, allowed to blossom and grow to fruition, will bring about eventual destruction.” Ted Tripp, *Shepherding*, 105



# Parenting Small Children: Discipline

- The Primary Means for Disciplining Small Children is *Spanking*.
- The Necessity of Spanking:
  - "Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him." *Proverbs 13:14*
  - "Punish him with the rod and save his soul from death" *Proverbs 23:14*  
"The rod of correction brings wisdom to the child. It provides an immediate tactile demonstration of the foolishness of rebellion... [It] humbles the heart of a child, making him subject to parental instruction... The spanking renders the child compliant and ready to receive life-giving words." Tripp, *Shepherding*, 107
- The Purpose of Spanking:
  - "The rod of correction *imparts wisdom*, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother" *Proverbs 29:15*
  - "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." *Hebrews 12:11*



# Parenting Small Children: Discipline

- What is “the use of the rod”?
  - *A Parental Exercise*: “Discipline *your son*.”
  - *An Act of Faith*
  - *A Responsibility* and an *Act of Faithfulness*
  - *A Physical Punishment*: “The careful, timely, measured and controlled use of physical punishment.”
  - *A Rescue Mission*: Restoring child to fellowship and relationship

*“The issue is never, ‘You have failed to obey ME... The child has failed to do what God has mandated.’”*



# Parenting Small Children: Discipline

## Rules for Spanking (Tripp, pp. 145-150)

- When to Spank?
  - When you have given a directive that he/she has heard and [understood], and has not obeyed without challenge, excuse, or delay, he/she needs a spanking. Be consistent.
- How to Spank?
  1. Take child to private place.
  2. Tell child specifically what he/she did or failed to do.
  3. Secure an acknowledgement from the child.
  4. Remind child of your purpose in spanking.
  5. Tell child how many swats he/she will receive.
  6. Lower drawers (without shaming); for older children leave on.
  7. After spanking affirm your love and your desire for child to obey. (Check that relationship is rightly restored. If child remains rebellious, correct and spank.)
  8. Pray with child. Encourage with gospel and personal forgiveness.
- Why to Spank?
  - God commands it. Additionally, spanking enables you to deal with issues of the heart.



# Parenting Small Children: Discipline

- Essential Spanking *Do-Not's*
  - Not the right to act in anger
  - Not the right to strike children indiscriminately
  - Not the venting of frustration
  - Not retribution
  - Not the inflicting of physical harm
  - Not to be done publicly

*We should practice spanking biblically, not in the manner we may have learned from our parents or from others.*