

## Final Authority

Who has the final word in your life? If your parents taught you something, and you find that God's Word says something different, who do you believe and obey? Maybe society, or experts on child-rearing have taught you something, and it sounds so reasonable and right. You like the sound of it and you decide that is what you want to do. But then further on in time you find that God has said something contrary to that, what will you do?

## God loves you

You may think you already know that God loves you. But it's a growing thing. **How much do you know of His love?** How much do you trust Him? Do you know that His plans for your life are far better than you can even imagine? Do you know that following His will and plan guarantees you a great life?

Please read mostly the letters part of the New Testament ~ Romans through Jude. These were written for and about us, the Church. As you spend time in God's Word every day, make a decision that you will **do** what you learn there. If you don't do what God says in His Word, you are actually following Satan's plans for your life. There are only two ways to live, not three: It's only God's or Satan's; that's all. **The more you hear the Word and do it, the more you will be blessed** ~ succeed at

everything you do ~ and that includes the way your kids turn out!

## God's Way

Prov. 13:24, "He who spares his rod, hates his son, but he who loves him, disciplines him promptly."

Prov. 19:18, "Chasten your son while there is hope...."

Prov. 20:30, "Blows that hurt cleanse away evil as do stripes the inner depths of the heart."

Prov. 22:15, "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him."

Prov. 23:13-14, "Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell."

Prov. 29:15, "The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother."

## A right way

If a child does something that makes you angry, and you start beating on him to vent your anger, that is child abuse. **A good rule to follow is, two swats for disrespect, and three for disobedience.** Other things like accidents or misbehavior that hasn't been forbidden, can't be

punished. You teach by your words.

## Not your hand

Hands are meant for loving, so save them for that purpose. You don't want your child to flinch when you bring your hand toward him! Use a flat sanded board about three inches wide, ¼" thick, and about 18" long. We made a narrowed place for our hands to grip. We got it at a lumberyard in a bin of scraps. A paint stick is fine for a toddler. A wooden spoon will leave bruises, and a paddle like a ping-pong paddle has too much wind resistance to be effective. Some people have found that a slender twig will sting the legs but not leave bruises. This is good too.

## Once, quietly

You can train your child to obey your voice when you give a command once and with a quiet voice. You must tell them that this is what you expect, and that you will give the three swats after saying it once softly. **If you are consistent, it will work.** That is the key. If you are not consistent, the child will never know when you really mean it and when you don't. That creates confusion and disrespect toward you! **If you want respect, be consistent!** Your flesh is not going to help you in this. It would rather stay seated when the child disobeys, than to get up and give the swats.

Here, it would be impossible to answer all the questions that surround the subject of spanking, but you can find a lot of answers in James Dobson's book called, "*Dare to Discipline.*"

There is a brochure about the size of this one called, "*Children; Fun or Frenzy*" by Pat Fabrizio. It is very good, but she seems to have gone to extreme when she tells about waking a child from sleep and telling them we weren't obeying God by not spanking, and then giving the spanking! That would surely instill a fear ~ might they disobey God again?

## Lots of Love

Hugs, kisses, holding, smiling, playing together things the child enjoys, and really listening to them ~ these are a few of the ways to communicate your love. Without lots of these, spanking is not going to work!! **Loving and spanking go together. Either one without the other is disastrous!** Many examples could be given.

When you've given a spanking, hold the child on your lap and tell him that you love him and that you want him to have a good life. Ask him if he wants to live a long time and have a good life. Then read Eph. 6:1-3 to him, and say, "See? That's why I had to spank you." Parents usually don't begin early enough, teaching their little one to obey. His cuteness and

their love for him are strong, and they don't want to spank. They're thinking, isn't there some other way? But the longer you wait to make them learn this lesson, the stronger their selfishness is growing, and the harder it will be for the parents to gain control.

## Times with God

Spending some time with God in prayer and in His Word every day is **vital** to give you the wisdom and the love that is needed in this delicate subject, and it will give you the power to do things God's way. I had a friend who also had two little kids when I had mine, and I tried to tell her how to follow through when she threatened her kids. But she never could do it, and now I know why.

## What about in public?

When my boys were both small and I had to take them shopping, I would tell them that if they were good, I'd buy them a treat when we were done ~ usually an ice-cream sandwich or a cookie. The first time I did this, I needed to explain what I meant by being good. It meant when I say "No," you will not beg or whine to try to change my mind. And you will obey quickly and quietly whatever I tell you to do. I never had to take them to the car to spank them or spank them after we got home.

# Must I SPANK my Child?



A mini Bible Study  
By Cheryl Boone