

the Venues

Go Deep

50 Shades of Gray

“Spare the Rod, Spoil the Child”

February 8, 2015

How were you disciplined as a child?

What episode of discipline do you still remember?

“Spare the rod, spoil the child” is the “grey statement” for this week.

Although the statement is not found in the Bible, its message is.

Read Proverbs 13:24, 22:15; 23:13-14; 10:13; 20:30; 26:3.

What are your observations of these verses?

What message is found in these verses?

1. Beat your children well?

What is your opinion of spanking as a form of discipline?

What do the following surveys on spanking tell us about the cultural influences?

70% of Americans approve of spanking (84% in 1986)

85% of Evangelical Christians

The South has a higher approval than the North, Northeast, West and Midwest.

Republicans approve of spanking more than Democrats and Independents.

Did you follow the Adrian Peterson case?

What are your thoughts?

Here's Charles Barclay's take on it: **“...I'm from the South. Whipping – we do that all the time. Every black parent in the South is going to be in jail under those circumstances....”**

Agree or disagree?

2. How do we read the Bible?

The pro-spanking folks in the Christian community claim to have the Bible on their side. *What do you think?*

The teaching laid out 6 ways pro-spankers deviate from the Bible's teaching on spanking:

1. The number of swats. “Two-smacks-max” is recommended today, but the Bible has no such limits.
2. Age restriction. Pro-spankers vary on this. James Dobson says spanking is to be applied only on kids from 15 months to 6 years. Others say from infancy through ten years. The Bible has no age restriction.

3. Location. Location. Location. Pro-spankers mostly recommend the bottom. The Bible says aim for the back not the butt.
4. The instrument. Pro-spankers recommend a belt, paddle or hand. The Bible only instructs the use of a rod or whip.
5. Never leave a mark. But the Bible speaks of spanking that leaves bruises as being beneficial.
6. Never spank in anger. I like that but it too deviates from Biblical teaching. See Palm 6:1; 38:1; Isaiah 10:24-25; Lamentations 3:1

The pro-spankers in the Christian community, while claiming to base their practice on the Bible, have gone *beyond* the Bible.

What do you think about going beyond the Bible in these ways?

Can you go beyond the Bible and still be “Biblical”?

Can a parent who does not spank still be “Biblical”?

What methods of discipline have you found to be effective?

3. What is our goal?

What is the difference between these approaches?

“How can I control my child?” and “How can I help my child learn self-control?”

Read Proverbs 22:6

The word “train” literally refers to the palate. A mom would put a crushed date on her finger and rub it on the baby’s palate creating a desire to suck.

How does that word describe what the goal of parenting should be?

Read John 14:23

What do you observe in Jesus’ words?

What does this verse tell us in terms of a parent’s goal?

The word “obey” means to guard, to pay attention to, to enjoy the presence of. It is also used in John 2:10. *How does its usage in John help us understand the word?*

Read Ephesians 6:1

The word “obey” here means to listen and respond.

What message do you hear from that word especially as it relates to Ephesians 6:4.

Do you have regrets about how you were raised and disciplined?

Do you have regrets about how you disciplined your kids?

What can you do to move beyond those regrets?

Take a look at Romans 12:18; Philippians 3:13-14; Matthew 5:23-24