

View

May 27, 2007

This Week's Agenda

The Lord's Day

9:30 AM: Singing, Prayer, Lord's Supper, Sermon: The Story, David Posey

5 PM – Singing, **Prayer**, Lord's Supper, Sermon: David Posey

Classes Offered This Week

Today at 5:30

Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium: Judges

Room 11-12: Evangelism Workshop

Tuesday at 7 PM

John's Gospel: 7 PM. Karlsson's Home.

Wednesday

7:30 PM – Classes for all ages 18 months and up.

Auditorium – Minor Prophets

Room 11-12: Revelation 4-22: Victory in Jesus!

News & Prayer Concerns

"First of all, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men..."

Prayer Concerns and Requests

Pauline Stevens (Paula Ladd's mother) broke her femur, just below her hip, and will probably require surgery. She is in the hospital in Kaufman, Texas awaiting word on when the surgery might take place. Pray for her and the family.

Kathy Wilson requires surgery to repair a problem related to her last Parkinson's surgery. See Hank or Kathy for details; meanwhile, pray for her.

Myrtle Ferrell, Gwen Scott's mother, had surgery last week and she is doing fairly well. Continue to keep her and Gwen's father in your prayers

Naomi Fannin is doing much better, but keep her in your prayers. Continue to include David Ramsey, Al Sellgren, Carl and Arlene Hanson, Jackson Agee, Donna Thompson and Dylan Franklin in mind as you pray. Steven Bremer's sister, Gail Jones, seems to be recovering well from her surgery.

Continue to pray for Sharon Jones, Charles Davis and his mother, and for those who are expecting: Amber Karlsson, Sarah Cain, Nicole Grinnell, Jamie Gardner and April Franklin. Also pray for the couples that want children, but have not been able.

Continue your prayers for those who serve our country, too, including Brandon Folkert (the Terrys' nephew).

Vacation Bible School

VBS is coming up about a month from now, on June 25-29. Material is available for those who have signed up to teach.

Out of Town

Several are out of town due to the long weekend. Pray for their safe travel and return.

Visitor Followup

Remember to check the bulletin board for copies of recent visitor cards and/or ask Dane Scott to put you on the e-mail list to receive information about our visitors.

Gospel Meetings

Mark your calendar for October 8-10, 2007 for a meeting with Ed Harrell. We have also booked gospel meetings with Bob Owen in the Fall of 2008, Paul Earnhart in 2009 and Dee Bowman in 2011.

Classes

The John class will be held on Tuesday at Amber and Magnus Karlsson's home at 7 PM.

A reminder: we will be starting another Wednesday morning class probably mid-June. Please see David Posey for details and to provide input into what you might like to study. Right now, we are considering an 8 week class on "Life Tumbles In: Dealing with Life's Problems."

dp



**Read your Bible
each day, and
spread the word!**

Six Methods of Disciplining Children

If what you are doing isn't working, try this.

The need for discipline cannot be overstated, but we need some direction on how to carry it out. The following methods, developed by Betty Chase and James Dobson, are among the most helpful and practical that I have seen. I wish I had known about these when I my children were very young; it would have saved us a lot of energy. The references in Genesis show how God used these methods in His dealings with Adam and Eve.

I. Communication: Genesis 2:16-17

Speaking to your child and making sure he knows & *understands* the rule ahead of time is always the first step. It is inherent in every act of correction, primarily through tone of voice and body language.

There is also a direct application of this method. First, a trained, obedient child will learn to respond to your voice and that could save his life. If he's running into the street, you want him to stop when you say stop in a loud, firm voice.

Also, you can get a lot out of look, if your child is trained properly. My dad could look at me across a room and exact my immediate obedience. That's called "giving him the eye"; see Psalm 32:8-9.

In order for your voice and look to work, the child must understand the consequences of misbehavior. That means he will associate the tone of voice, for example, with a painful result if he does not obey.

II. Reinforcement: Genesis 2:8, 15-16, 18ff.; 3:21 (displaying grace)

Positive reinforcements (reward) help children reform or avoid bad behavior. Most children want to please their parents, so let them know what pleases you, *when they do things that please you*. Some parents have a difficult time praising their children because they don't want them to be satisfied with less than they can achieve. But praise is a great motivator and should be used often.

There are two kinds of praise: *intrinsic* are words that promote feeling of worth or competence; you use this kind of praise for specific achievements. *Extrinsic* reinforcement are actual rewards or gifts you give for good behavior, such as allowing the child to stay up late, have a friend over, or other little gifts you may give.

We need to sound a caution here: Not *all* obedience is to be rewarded. Christian parents must cultivate the idea that some rules need to be obeyed just because.

That's the way life is. We are not rewarded for doing what we should be doing anyway (see Luke 17:7-10).

Don't turn your child into a trained seal.

Keep goal in mind. We want to raise godly children who not only do good, but *prefer* the good over the bad.

III. Natural Consequences: Genesis 3:7, 10-11 (shame & guilt)

When a clearly communicated rule is broken, you must exercise corrective discipline. But is spanking the only alternative? How would you like to avoid the endless test of wills and arguments between you and your child?

One of the best ways to do that is to use a method called *natural consequences*: let the child suffer the natural consequences of his improper behavior. Obviously, this method doesn't apply to playing with fire, running into the street or playing on railroad tracks. But for those misbehaviors to which it does apply, it is a liberating way to parent.

A few examples should suffice to describe the method. If your child refuses to take his coat when he goes out to play, don't argue with him. Let him be cold! He'll come in to get his coat before he freezes to death. And if your child always forgets lunch when he goes to school, let him go hungry for a day! He won't starve to death; and he'll probably remember his lunch tomorrow. What if she keeps coming in 10-15 minutes after you call her in for dinner? What are you going to do, Mom? A missed dinner or two may solve the problem. What if he won't tie shoes?

Do you get the idea? The point is, don't take all the responsibility from (not for, *from*) your children. These situations present great opportunities for them to learn responsibility, and require virtually no work on your part. (By the way, stifle the urge to lecture, and say "I told you so." Let the method do its work without comment).

These consequences are called "natural" because they flow naturally from the disobedience and you really don't have to do anything — the child just about disciplines himself. How many battles could we avoid with just this one method? Unfortunately, too many of today's parents protect their children from every failure and that's a huge mistake. Your children will suffer some failures in the real world, so it is best for them to have

some experience with failure in the controlled environment of their own home. One of the main causes of failure in the business world is fear of failure!

IV. Logical Consequences: 3:16, 17-19.

Some of the curses God pronounced on Adam were logical. He had always tended the garden; now when he did it, there would be weeds and he would get his fruit through much toil and sweat. That would make him think about his sin.

In natural consequences, the consequence is built-in—parent just steps aside and lets it happen. Logical consequences require prescribing the result. Here's an easy example: make the child clean up after his messes (I say "easy," although it is amazing how often mothers do it for the kids). It's the effort itself that's important here; if a child writes on wall, let him scrub it for about an hour (even if his scrubbing has no effect on the graffiti). Be creative. For example, if a child is slow at getting dressed each morning, you can't let child miss bus every time (natural consequences), but you can make her go to bed 30 minutes earlier; keep moving it up until she starts getting up on time.

What if your boy is in the habit of leaving his bike in the front yard? Why not lock it up for awhile; he can walk. That'll give him some time to think about the consequences of his act. Sloppy room? Won't finish dinner? Won't quit playing Nintendo when you ask him to? Destroys toys? What will you do? Why not do what is the most logical? Plan a negative consequence that is logically related to the behavior. Communicate this consequence to the child and then use it, if necessary.

V. Extinction: Genesis 3:22-24 (expulsion from the garden)

Mark Twain advised that at 15, we put the kid in a barrel, and cut a hole in the top for air. At 18, he advised, "plug the hole"

But we're not talking about extinguishing the child; we want to extinguish his poor behavior. How? In this method, we ignore it. (This shouldn't be too hard for some parents: they've been practicing it for years!) This is the opposite of reward, in which we give super-attention to child's good behavior. Here, we make a judgment: is the child just trying to get attention? Is he throwing a fit, doing some spoiled crying, or (at older ages) dressing weird? He just wants some attention and he gets his reward when you give it to him. If he pushes your buttons and you respond, he wins. Therefore, the best way to handle this stuff is to flatly ignore him. If the

action fails to get any attention with the action, he may not try it any more.

Children do not have an absolute right to your attention at all times. Some parents are afraid a child will somehow become a mass murderer because we wanted to finish the paragraph we're reading before allowing him to interrupt us. For their own good, children must learn to respect other people's space, time and right to speak.

VI. Spanking: physical discipline— Genesis 3:17-18 (toil, sweat). Proverbs 13:24; 23:13-14

I don't have to tell you we live in a hypersensitive age. But the wisdom of Scripture has not changed and you should not let the climate of the times affect your commitment to discipline.

Assertions without proof are as common as clouds. For example, some "expert" may be heard to say that spanking children teaches them violence. But don't expect to find any statistics or genuine proof of any kind because it doesn't exist; if they had the proof, you would have seen it by now!

I can offer some personal, anecdotal proof about the effect of spanking. As the oldest child in the family, I was spanked pretty often (much more than I needed, of course!). Yet, I abhor violence. I had one fight in school, and I wasn't looking for it. Our son also got a few spankings in his time, yet he is also a totally non-violent individual. Through 4 years of high school football, he walked away from every fight, even when taunted pretty severely. If "spanking makes a child violent," then it would make a child violent in most cases. But it doesn't. The claim is made up out of whole cloth.

When you use this method of discipline, follow these guidelines and it will be most effective.

1. Try not to spank in anger. Spanking in a rage can be bad for everybody, if not dangerous. Remember your example of self-control. In severe cases, you might want to tell the child to go elsewhere until you cool off.

2. Depending on child, spanking is usually not for older ages because it is too humiliating, which is not the purpose of spanking.

3. It is my view that spanking should be the punishment of choice in two cases: (1) for lying; (2) for talking back to you or spouse. In these cases, the child is openly defying authority. It is particularly important that you correct these early on. A lying, sassing teenager is a pain to his father and mother.



4. Spanking should be a procedure: take them to a private place (if possible), communicate about why they are being punished, and give them a few painful swats on the behind (largest muscle in body). If applicable, the child should make restitution.

5. Try other methods at times. Spanking is not as effective for some children as it is for others. Remember the goal: we want children who are being conformed to the image of Christ. . .

Discipline begins and ends with communication; it is firm, but loving, and mirrors God's love for us.

dp

Mark Your Calendar...

May

Class on John, Tuesday nights at 7PM at the Karlsson's.

June

Sunday, 3rd – Young People's Meeting (Place TBA)

Monday to Friday, 25th-29th, Vacation Bible School

Sunday, 24th – Quarterly Singing

October 8-10, Meeting with Ed Harrell

Training Children: Secular vs. Biblical

Secular Vision

There is no real vision of parenting. They think parenting comes natural. There is no good or bad parenting, they think, it just happens. Parents do not have any special responsibility of instruction. They can live their own lives apart from their children.

Biblical Vision

Parents are intricately involved in the training of their children. They teach, provide and guide their children into a good, godly and loving lifestyle.

Secular: Human Core Values

Happiness, financial security, safety, self-esteem, success and other values dictate the way they train their children.

Biblical Core Values

Biblical values like love, faith, forgiveness, and joy dictate how parents train their children. Instruction on Christ's life and death is regularly communicated and lived out before their children.

Secular: Little Respect for Authority

The permissive crowd may respect authority, but they have no core values to appeal to. Children are treated as an equal to the parent in authority.

Biblical: Respect for Authority

Respect for authority is taught as the parents obey the Lord and then enforce the need for their children to obey and honor them. Children are not treated as an equal to the parent in authority; they do not have a vote. They are to obey their parents.

Secular: Frustration

The parent has lots of expectations but no way to help the child to reach them. The parents are very frustrated.

Biblical: Satisfaction

The parent knows how to train their expectations into their children so that they become polite and kind people.

Secular: Conflict of Sex Roles

The husband and wife are confused to why he or she should do what the other person could easily do. A lot of extra tension causes tension between the parents and creates insecurity in the children.

Biblical: Clear Understanding of Sex Roles

The husband and wife's clear understanding of their places in the family help bring clarity to the child as to his or her place.

Secular: Unresolved Conflict

The parents want to get along peaceably with their children but because of the amount of unresolved conflict, there is an actual war.

Biblical: Resolved Conflict

The parents get along fine with their children so that by teen age years, their children are among their best of friends. No enmity exists because the conflicts have been fully resolved.

Secular: Expression of Feelings

The permissive parent believes that the expression of ones feelings brings healing. They are feeling-oriented. In fact, saying, "*You're angry*" only masks the root problem.

Biblical: Self-Control

The child is not taught by feelings but by the standards in God's Word. They are expected to speak kindly, humbly, and focused on the needs of others. Biblical standards are enforced on the outward until they are incorporated inside and bring about the needed self-control.

[Paul J. Bucknell]