

Chapter 5 – Keeping God’s Covenant & the Exercise of Discipline

1. Read Hebrews 12:1-17
 - a. What is discipline/chastisement? How does it differ from punishment?
 - b. What are some of the reasons that we Christians are chastened of the Lord? What is God’s motive and goal in sending chastisements?
 - c. How should this chastening be received?
 - d. How can the rearing that our parents have given us help us in rearing and disciplining our own children? Could there be faults that need correcting in the next generation?
 - e. Find some Bible passages that give direction to parents in the area of disciplining their children. Does the Bible say much about this? How can the Bible’s teaching on this subject be helpful to us even if we are not parents?
2. The necessity of discipline
 - a. Is discipline necessary for all of our children? Will there be differences in how discipline is administered to different children? How do we maintain a balance in this regard between differences of administration and not favoring our children? Is this something we need to talk about with our children?
 - b. How do Hebrews 12:7-8 show the necessity of discipline?
 - c. Do our children (all of them) have sinful natures? Does this become evident? What does this say about the necessity of discipline? Cf. Prov. 22:15, 23:14
 - d. Is discipline necessary in our Christian Schools? What is the prevailing view in our culture/society? How far should the school take this – physical discipline? What policies do our schools have for this? Do you agree with them? How can parents support/undermine the discipline of teachers and staff in our schools?
3. The Responsibility to discipline
 - a. To whom does Scripture give the responsibility to discipline? Why is it necessary that a family have a father?
 - b. Should the mother also discipline? What if she does not?
 - c. Why is a warm covenantal home relationship necessary for the effective discipline of children? What are some things in our personal lives that stand in the way of this?
4. The Purpose of discipline
 - a. What is God’s purpose in sending discipline to his people? How does this set a standard for our purpose with the discipline of our children?
 - b. How do the covenant promises of Genesis 17:7 and Acts 2:39 give hope to parents in this difficult work?
 - c. How can we address the heart sins of our children, and not just their wrong behavior? Why is this important?
 - d. If children do not heed parental discipline, they must be reported to the church/elders. How would you go about doing this? At what point should a parent do this? Is this practiced adequately in our circles?
 - e. Why is consistency important in discipline?
 - f. How can parents become selfish in the discipline of their children?
5. The motive for discipline
 - a. What are some wrong motives to discipline? How can parents become selfish in discipline?
 - b. What is the biblical motive for discipline? Why is it important to remind ourselves of this as parents?
 - c. What are some practical methods that parents can use to communicate love to their children while and after they discipline them?