

The Question: What's it take to raise kids who love God and love you when they're grown?

The Answer: Ephesians 6:4 – 4

Key Words:

1. "don't provoke" = overcorrect, be harsh, fault finding, perfectionist
2. "bring up" = nurture, rear, tenderly develop in the sphere of character and principles
3. "discipline" = nurture (KJV), chastise (RV), training (2 Tim. 3:16)
 - *It's what is done to the child.*
4. "instruction" = warn, admonish, correct, reprove, implore
 - *It's what is said to the child.*

Summary: We are to parent with LOVE and LIMITS

Secular research's affirmation* – 4 kinds of parents:

1. **Permissive** = High love, low discipline
2. **Neglectful** = Low love, low discipline
3. **Authoritarian** = Low love, high discipline
4. **Authoritative** = High love, high discipline

*Reuben Hill Minnesota Report

God's prescription for child development:

⁴In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

⁵And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you,

⁶because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son."

⁷Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

⁸If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.

⁹Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!

¹⁰Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.

¹¹No 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 12:4-11 (NIV)

Summary: Discipline is teaching **obedience** to God and His Word through **consistent consequences** (actions) and **clear instructions** (words) in an atmosphere of love.

- The **necessity** of discipline = To deter _____ Hebrews 12:4
- The **means** of discipline = Through _____ and _____ Hebrews 12:5
- The **motive** in discipline = To express _____ Hebrews 12:6-9
- The **goal** of discipline = To teach _____ Hebrews 12:9
- The **result** of discipline = Short term _____ and long term _____ Hebrews 12:10-11

How to parent with love and limits:

Actions = Consistent Consequences

Proverbs 13:24; 22:15

- Small Children
- Preteens
- Teens

Words = Clear instructions

Proverbs 1:8; 2:1-2; 3:1; 7:1-2

- Small Children
- Preteens
- Teens

Punishment

Discipline

	Punishment	Discipline
Purpose	To inflict penalty for an offense	To train for correction and maturity
Focus	Past misdeeds	Future correct acts
Attitude	Hostility and frustration on the part of the parent	Love and concern on the part of the parent
Resulting emotion in the child	Fear and guilt	Security

For further teaching on child discipline, see *Effective Parenting in a Defective World* by Chip Ingram

Practical tips for balanced parenting:

1. Have a few, clear _____ / _____.
2. Develop written _____.
3. Negotiate _____.
4. Be _____!
5. The older they get, the _____ the rules.
6. _____ them to be on their own.

➤ **Develop A Game-Plan**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

Discussion Questions:

1. How would you classify your parenting style or tendency compared to the case study? Discuss your answer.
2. What is the difference between **discipline** and **punishment**?
3. What are your top two disciplinary problems with your children? What means of action/consequences or instruction would help your child learn obedience?
4. What **specific step** do you need to take to align your parenting with God's pattern to bring out the best in your child?

Resources: *Parenting with Love and Logic* by Kevin Lema
Dare to Discipline by James Dobson