



I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, and the bright and morning star.
Revelation 22:16

Biblical Discipline Philosophy

“To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”, (Ecc 3:8) and might I suggest a time to learn that we might be not unfruitful. (Tit 3:14)

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JOB

In the book of Job, there are a number of principles that are exciting and encouraging to unearth. However, the one major truth that I find to be more heartening than any other is the providence of the Almighty. God is in complete control, period!

I find it interesting, and conclusive to the importance of this truth, that practically through out the entire book, Job was being attacked and manipulated in hopes that he might doubt this one major principle.

As powerful and wise as Satan is, it is encouraging to be reminded also of his lack of true power, as even his actions are restricted by God himself. It is reassuring to be reminded of God’s obvious control over all things created, and His ever continuous watch care and providence. To know that God is always aware of our condition and to know that He is in complete control is extremely comforting.

We can see that several times Satan presented himself before the LORD, knowing himself, that he could do nothing without God’s permission. We see several occasions where God permitted him to act, however setting stick and defined limitations. These were divine limitations and restrictions that interestingly enough, Satan never argued with, because Satan knew the providence of God.

One of the things that I have learned and that the Lord has used Job to reinforce is the absolute need for me to trust, that all situations that come my way are not necessarily brought about by the Lord, but are all allowed by Him for His purpose and my good.

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PROVERBS

Proverbs is a book, as defined by Scofield, which is “a collection of sententious sayings (*which*) is divine wisdom applied to the earthly conditions of the people of God.”

It is a book that is defined in scope completely within its first seven verses. It is a book that has been preserved for us, that we might “know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; To receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity;” (1:2-3).

It is a book that speaks much of the fear of the Lord, and conveys very clearly and precisely, that it is that fear which is the beginning of knowledge: (v.1:7, 9:10, 15:33).

Wisdom as defined by the world is an accumulation of knowledge or erudition or enlightenment. Specifically, the wisdom that Proverbs speaks of, is not our wisdom (23:4) , but the Lords wisdom, and not simply knowledge, but the application of that knowledge.

It is nevertheless, the principle thing (4:7) which we are to obtain and also teach. It is more important to possess and better than money or jewels (8:11, 16:16).

Wisdom is given to us by the Lord (2:6), enters into our heart (2:10), resides there (14:33) and is evident in our speech (2:6), as is the lack thereof (18:4).

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If lips and life do not agree, the testimony will not amount to much

-- H.A. Ironside

Internet Sites to See

Middletown Area Bible Church
www.middletownareabiblechurch.com

Hearts in Service
www.heartsinservice.org

WOEL-FM 89.9
www.mbcmin.org/woel



Please visit us on the web for up to date information concerning upcoming evangelistic meetings in Ghana. Simply click on the Ghana flag in the upper right hand corner of our website.

If Our Greatest Need Had Been ...

If our greatest need had been information,
God would have sent us an educator;

If our greatest need had been technology,
God would have sent us a scientist;

If our greatest need had been money,
God would have sent us an economist;

If our greatest need had been pleasure,
God would have sent us an entertainer;

But our greatest need was forgiveness,
So God sent us a Savior.

In order to maximize our potential for learning that which we are taught, discipline is of the utmost importance. Discipline is a biblical principle which is governed much by our submission and obedience to the Lord, which in turn is a gauge of our fellowship with the Lord.

Realizing this, we need to understand that discipline is a spiritual matter, not only in the fashion in which it is dealt out, but also in the spirit that it is received and reacted to. I mention this because I believe that the amount and course of discipline will often times be based upon the spiritual maturity of the audience. I understand that I cannot be dogmatic as to that statement, for many times we see unsaved children behaving much better than those who profess to know Jesus Christ as Saviour. However, I do believe that many times if we look at the discipline in the unsaved home, most of the children who are well-behaved are products of parents who unknowingly employ “Christian” disciplinary guidelines. Also, I realize that there are children who come from Christian homes that do employ proper biblical discipline, and are still a behavior problem. It is in these situations, that I believe it is primarily a spiritual problem on behalf of the child.

In the book “How in this world can I be Holy?”, written by Erwin W. Lutzer, he begins by attempting to focus the reader on the subject, and makes the following statement. He states that in order to make lifestyle changes “It also involves an evaluation of ourselves, an evaluation that penetrates to the hidden thoughts and secret motivations of our heart.” I believe that this is the goal of discipline. The goal of discipline is not to cause pain, it is not to provoke servitude, it is not to intimidate, it is not even to cause one to conform to biblical moral standards. The purpose of discipline is however to assist in promoting the spiritual growth of a person, and that alone, will systematically change their heart condition, attitude, actions, reactions and behavior.

In Titus, Chapter 2 and verse 11, we see that “... the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men” and that by this we are taught something which is described in verse 12 as the act of denying ungodliness and worldly lusts. What I found interesting in verse 12, is that the word translated “Teaching” comes from the Greek word *paideuō*, which means to train up a child, to educate or discipline by punishment, to chastise with instruction that they might learn. If the children are not taught and disciplined, how will they learn? How can we expect them to? We cannot expect behavior that is Godly, sober and righteous if they are not taught properly.

Many of today’s children are coming from homes in which the parents or guardians do not biblically love them. This is demonstrated by their lack of discipline. (Proverbs 13:24) I am not just speaking of unsaved homes. Unfortunately, due to worldly influences, even Christian parents are not biblically disciplining their children. This will make it more difficult not only in community outreach programs (i.e. Vacation Bible School) but also in today’s Christian Day schools and other Christian venues. So then, by default, today’s and tomorrow’s Christian workers will face the challenge of disciplining undisciplined children.

I believe that not only is it our biblical responsibility to discipline, but it is also something that the children need and want. I believe they want someone to care about them, someone to love them, and someone to nurture them. That said, the first hurdle which needs to be cleared is one of a spiritual nature.

We all must agree that discipline is never an amusing or entertaining venture. I know now what my father meant, when he said “this is going to hurt me more than it’s going to hurt you”. However, as I stated earlier, if we truly love our own children and the children that the Lord gives us the privilege to minister to, we must employ discipline.

I believe that we, as Job did, need to be reminded of who created all things and who is in ultimate control. And although at times we may not be able to answer the question “why me”, this we can know this for sure, that God is in control. And we can say with Job, that “thou canst do everything”.

“We should not be asking ourselves the question,

“Why me?” . We should be asking ourselves the question “Why not me”.” - Unknown

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SEVENTY FIVE REFERENCES AGAINST DRINKING WINE; STRONG DRINK

1. The first drunkenness and the attendant immoral behavior. --Gen. 9:20-26
2. Drinking results in Lot's debauchery of his own daughters. --Gen. 19:30-38
3. Isaac was drinking when he mistakenly blessed Jacob. --Gen. 27:25
4. An express command not to drink. --Lev. 10:9
5. The vow of the Nazarite. --Num. 6:3
6. Drinking leads to stubbornness, rebellion, gluttony, brings dishonor to parents.--Deut. 21:20
7. Abstinence assures a closer walk with God. - -Deut. 29:2-6

8. Samson's mother, an example of all womanhood, was commanded not to drink. Was alcohol recognized even then as a protoplasmic poison, injuring posterity? --Judg. 13:4,7, 14
9. Hannah, an example of honored motherhood, was a total abstainer. --I Sam. 1:14-15
10. Nabal, died after a drunken spree, after already lost his wife's respect.--I Sam. 25:33; 36:38
11. Only by strong drink could David lead Uriah into a fatal trap. --II Sam. 11:13
12. Amon, in a drunken brawl, was murdered by his brother Absalom. --II Sam. 13:28-29
13. While a king was "drinking himself drunk," one of his captains slew him. --I Kings 16:8-10
14. While Ben Hadad and 32 other Kings were drinking in their pavilions, a small band of Israel's men fell upon them and put them to flight. Drink and war. --I Kings 20:13-21
15. King Ahasuerus drunkenly tried to subject his queen to the beastly gaze of inebriated nobles, causing the wreck of home and separation of the husband and wife.-Esther 1:5-22
16. Job's children were feasting and drinking when blown away in a cyclone. --Job 1:18-19
17. Violence results from drinking. --Pr. 4:17
18. No wise men will indulge. --Pr. 20:1
19. Drink leads to poverty. --Pr. 21:17, 23:21
20. The body rebels after drinking. --Pr. 23:7-8
21. Strong drink produces sorrow, contentions, wounds without cause, babblings, redness of eyes. --Pr. 23:29-30
22. Do not be tempted by intoxicants. --Pr. 23:31

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As the focus of many churches is shifting to ones “personal convictions” and away from biblical standards, we see that discipline is one of the first doctrines that continues to be attacked.¹ Many of today’s “programs”, in both Christendom and secular circles, are built on a lack of discipline, under the disguise of giving children and even adults more “freedom” and “flexibility”. As a matter of fact, the National Education Association (NEA) has stated, addressing parents, that “Physical punishment can be harmful to a child and does not accomplish the goal. Besides, no parent wants their children to fear them.”¹ Although physical punishment (spanking/paddling) will not be the avenue taken on most occasions, it is indeed a biblical one. This statement simply serves as a yardstick for the movement away from discipline by our society. The truth of the matter is, that freedom can only be found in Christ Jesus, through discipline.

Discipline is necessary, and in doing so, we must follow the example of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. He was prompt, dedicated, compassionate, sympathetic, loving and caring, to name a few qualities. His purpose is never, to harm us or drag us down, but rather to build us up and strengthen us so that we might serve him better. In each of the examples of chastisement in the Word of God, we can see clearly how our Lord saw a critical need for it. As such, our children, and those entrusted to our care, have a great and important need for it. The need mainly grows out of the child’s need to learn-both mentally and spiritually. Without discipline, it is very difficult to learn mentally what is being taught, but more importantly, it is difficult to grow spiritually. If we do not grow spiritually, we diminish our ability to walk in close fellowship with our saviour. This lessens our availability to be used in God’s

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Anything God has ever done, He can do now.

Anything God has ever done anywhere, He can do here.

Anything God has ever done for anyone, He can do for you.

~ A.W. Tozer ~

Proverbs Continued

Wisdom has the ability make us happy (3:13) and give us strength, but not human strength, it gives us the strength of the Lord himself, in his understanding, through wisdom (8:14). Keep in mind if you will, this is the same wisdom which was the driving force behind creation (3:19). It is that wisdom, which is the way to understanding that we might be kept from folly and walking uprightly upon the right path. (4:11, 5:1, 7:4, 8:1, 8:5, 10:13, 10:23, 14:8, 15:21, 17:24, 24:3) It is the combination of these, wisdom and understanding, in which we are built up and established in an ever sanctified relationship with our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

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service, and thus renders us unable to function in the perfect will of God. The end result of all this, is that we are then unable to bring God the glory that He is well deserving of. Discipline is not only necessary, it is critical as one expands their knowledge of things on earth, and biblical as one grows in obedience and fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Hobbs, Ruth O., The Master Teacher



Strong Drink Continued

23. God's Word warns that liquor eventually harms all who drink. --Pr. 23:32

24. It produces a willfulness and prevents reformation. --Pr. 22:23

25. It fills men's minds with adulterous and impure thoughts. --Pro. 23:33

26. It brings on insecurity. --Pr. 23:34

27. Insensibility follows drinking, rendering a man into a clod. --Pr. 23:35

28. Habit forming. One drink calls for another. --Pr. 23:35

29. Kings and all other rulers or officials with the weight of human lives in their control should not imbibe. --Pr. 31:4-5

30. The only sanctions for the use of strong drink was as a medicine or anesthetic for the dying. We now know better medicines and anesthetics than whiskey, wine, or beer. --Pr. 31:6-7

31. The writer of Ecclesiastes tried strong drink, but in the end was forced to admit that it too is vanity. --Eccl. 2:3 (Eccl. 12:8)

32. Blessings are promised to the temperate and abstaining nations. --Eccl. 10:17

33. More woes to them who drink. --Isa. 5:22

35. Drinking and carnality go together. Leaves men hopeless. --Isa. 22:13

36. Drink is bitter to them that drink it. --Isa. 24:9

37. Woe to the drunkards of Ephraim. --Isa. 28:1

38. The pride of drunkards will be trodden down. --Isa. 28:3

39. Prophets and priests erred through drink. --Isa. 28:7

40. Those who drink are set aside as useless. --Isa. 28:7

41. Prophets and priests finally swallowed up by drink. --Isa. 28:7

42. Drinking brings on spiritual blindness. --Isa. 28:7

43. Rebuke to drinking church members. His watchmen. --Isa. 56:9-12

44. Total abstinence of the Rechabites cited as example of obedience on the part of God's people. --Jer. 35:5, 6, 8, 14

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45. Priests are not to drink wine. --Ezek. 44:21
46. God honored Daniel because he abstained from the King's wine. Daniel the man was true to the home training he had received as a boy. --Dan. 1:5, 8, 16; 10:3
47. Belshazar's exampled a leader who drank and taught his people to drink. --Dan.5:1
48. A nation whose women drink. --Dan. 5:2, 23
49. Ruin and downfall for nations whose rulers/leaders cause them to drink. -Dan.5:5-9, 25-28
50. Belshazzar's sacrilege in using sacred temple vessels for liquor. --Dan. 5:3
51. Part of the degradation of Hosea's wife induced by drink. --Hos. 3:1
52. Strong drink and Immorality go hand in hand. --Hos. 4:11
53. Kings and people reproved because of drinking. --Hos. 7:5
54. Drunkards to awake from their drinking. --Joel 1:5.
55. Young virtue sold for the price of drink. --Joel 3:3
56. Wine of the condemned. --Amos 2:8
57. Pollution of the innocent. --Amos 2:12
58. Dissolute women, oppressors of the poor, call for their liquor. --Amos 4:1
59. Drinkers not concerned about God nor the welfare of others. --Amos 6:6
60. Drunkards to be destroyed. --Nah. 1:10
61. Arrogance inflamed by drink. --Hab. 2:5
62. Wrong to give one's neighbor drink. Social drinking. --Hab. 2:15
63. Drink leads to shame and humiliation. --Hab. 2:16
64. Drunkards warned about the return of Christ and His judgment. --Matt. 24:48-51
65. Greatness of John the Baptist linked with his total abstinence. --Luke 1:15
66. Christ warns against being enmeshed in drink evils. --Luke 12:45
67. Warning against drunkenness and the cares of this life which follow, keeping one occupied to the exclusion of the Spirit. --Luke 21:34
68. All are admonished to walk honestly, not in rioting and drunkenness. It is not honest to be less than men, created in the image of God. - Rom. 13:13
69. Drinking causes a brother to stumble. Importance of example. --Rom. 14:21
70. No drunkard shall inherit the kingdom of God. (Therefore the preaching of the Gospel must include alcohol education.) --I Cor. 6:10
71. The Lord's Supper no place for wine. Word "wine" not even used. Instead all accounts say "the cup or "fruit of the vine." --I Cor. 11:25
72. Revelers in drunkenness shall not inherit the Kingdom of God. --Gal. 5:21
73. Direct command that exhilaration shall be of the Spirit and not by wine. --Eph. 5:18

74. Sobriety enjoined the Thessalonians. Children of light must not be overcome by darkness. --1 Thess. 5:7

75. Church officers must not drink; neither should their families. --1 Tim. 3:3, 8,11, 12

--from The Baptist Echo - April 1976, p. 3

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NEW VIDEO ON CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP MUSIC

We are pleased to announce the publication of a new multi-media video presentation entitled "Dangers of Contemporary Worship Music." I am very excited about this new production, because it is so timely and it truly gets to the heart of what is wrong with the new worship music. My earnest prayer is that it will get a wide hearing." - David Cloud

The two-hour video (divided into three segments) is professionally produced and a multiplicity of photographs and other visual and audio aids are mixed into the presentation to illustrate the message.

Much research has gone into this production. In 2003 I read about 30 books on the subject of contemporary praise, and I analyzed about 50 of the popular contemporary praise albums. Through the years I have studied contemporary praise at large ecumenical conferences which I have attended with press credentials, such as New Orleans '87, Indianapolis '90, and St. Louis 2000. Within the last couple of years I have attended services at congregations that are influential in the CCW movement, including Rick Warren's Saddleback Church in California, Bill Hybels' Willowcreek Community Church near Chicago, the Anaheim Vineyard Church, lately pastored by John Wimber, Carpenter's Home Church in Lakeland, Florida (where Michael W. Smith recorded his largest-selling worship album), and other congregations that are influential in this movement.

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