

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 January 19, 2025

Seven Ways To Mess Up The Discipline Of Our Children

by Bryan Gibson

Spanking and other forms of corrective discipline are an essential part of child-rearing. According to God—and He’s the only one who matters—when done the right way, corrective discipline can have some really good results.

The child develops respect for the authority of his parents, i.e., submits his will to another (Hebrews 12:9). And it’s important they learn that early, because we want them to ultimately submit their will to the Lord (Matthew 16:24; Acts 3:22-23; Galatians 2:20).

It drives foolishness out of a child (Proverbs 22:15).

It helps a child develop wisdom (Proverbs 29:15).

A well-disciplined child gives “rest” and “delight” to his/her parents (Proverbs 29:17).

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It's not the only thing, of course, but it does play a role in saving a child from eternal destruction (Proverbs 23:13-14; 19:18).

But what if it's **not** done the right way? Well, these effects can be greatly diminished or maybe even destroyed completely. Here are seven ways we can mess up a good thing.

Not starting early enough

The longer we wait, the longer we put up with willful rebellion, the greater the challenge becomes to conquer their will. Start early and life will soon be easier for everyone.

Inconsistency

When the same behavior is laughed at one time and spanked another, how can a child possibly learn what he's supposed to learn? Mood can even sometimes dictate discipline, and that's not a good thing. In a good mood, we may just "shrug off" a child's misbehavior; in a bad mood, we may get angry and spank them. "Do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged" (Colossians 3:20)—that may be exactly what happens with this kind of approach.

Lack of promptness

Children can have awful short memories. If corrective discipline is not administered promptly, the child may not understand the reason for the discipline. And if we don't deem it serious enough to deal with right away, they may not think it's very serious, either.

Idle words

And that includes idle threats of punishment. If we promise punishment for a certain behavior, we better follow through. Training children is hard enough; it's even harder when our they can't trust what we say to them.

Lack of pain

"No chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but **painful...**" (Hebrews 12:11, see also Proverbs 20:30). Yes, it's supposed to hurt, because only then is it likely to correct the bad behavior. Children need painful reminders of past actions—they need to know how much it will hurt if they do it again.

Abandon the plan too quickly

Perhaps we do start early, and we do it consistently and promptly, and maybe even enough to hurt—but the results don't come as quickly as we like. Too many decide it's not working and abandon the plan. Big mistake. The stubbornness, the self will in children can often be quite strong, which means we need to stick with God's plan to get the desired result ("**afterward** it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it"—Hebrews 12:11). Give up and they feel like they've "won," and that's not a good thing.

Divided parents

When a child knows after being disciplined by one parent, he can run to the other and get support, do we really think the discipline will have much effect? Parents might question each other privately about disciplinary matters, but should never do it in front of the children.

