

## “No Fear” (Of Parents)

### INTRODUCTION :

1. One very disturbing trend in religion today is to remove the attitudes of “fear and trembling” from our service to God.
2. We make a terrible mistake in doing so, because the N.T. clearly shows how important these attitudes are.
  - a. Read Philippians 2:12-13—obey God with “fear and trembling.”
  - b. Read Romans 11:22—consider both the “goodness and **severity** of God.”
  - c. The severity of God is obviously something we should fear. As **Heb. 10:31** reminds us, it is a “**fearful** thing to fall into the hands of a living God.”
3. But this trend has had an effect in the home as well. So much emphasis is put on showing children goodness that we may neglect to show them enough severity.
  - a. Both are vital in bringing up our children in the training and admonition of the Lord.
  - b. What happens when we show too much goodness and not enough severity? They do not learn these attitudes of fear and trembling.
4. **ROM 3:18** “There is no fear of God before their eyes.”
  - a. In regard to some children today, we could change this to say, “there is no fear of **their parents** before their eyes.”
5. I’m afraid this is becoming more and more the case. Evidence:
  - a. Children routinely telling their parents “no” when told to do something.
  - b. When told to stop doing something, they go right on doing it.
  - c. “Come here” is their signal to turn and go the other direction.
  - d. Screaming or crying uncontrollably—“pitching a fit.” And parents seemingly unable to do anything about it.
6. Disobedience to parents is serious business.
  - a. **Read Romans 1:28, 30, 32; 2 Timothy 3:1-2, 5.**
  - b. Disobedience will be a problem when fear is not instilled in children.

**BODY :**

- I. What will it take to instill fear? Again, we have to make sure we don't neglect the severity side.
  - A. It will take strong, consistent discipline—and yes, spanking is a vital part of that.
    1. **PRO 13:24** “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.”
    2. **PRO 15:10** “Harsh correction is for him who forsakes the way, and he who hates reproof will die.”
      - a. Yes, there is such a thing as “harsh correction.”
    3. **PRO 19:18** “Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.”
      - a. There is a place for *praising* our children, but also a place for *chastening* our children.
    4. **PRO 22:15** “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him.”
      - a. This should make us think twice about saying, “Spanking just doesn't work.”
    5. **PRO 23:13-14** “Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. (14) You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.”
      - a. The language here implies some severity. Why give assurance they will not die, unless some severity is involved?
    6. **PRO 29:15** “The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.”
      - a. Fear has a way of making one wiser.
    7. **HEB 12:11** “Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”
      - a. This passage is talking primarily about the chastening of the Lord, but would it not apply to the chastening of parents? It's not pleasant for us or for our children, but the fruits of it are certainly worthwhile.

8. Another reminder of what we're striving for as we administer discipline:
    - a. **1TI 3:4** one who rules his own house well, having (his) children in submission with all reverence.
    - b. It's not impossible, then; it can be done. Yes, it will take some goodness, but it will also take some severity.
- II. But let's look at some other benefits to combining severity with goodness—besides having them “in submission with all reverence.”
- A. They learn things that will serve them well in future years.
1. To listen to and respect the voice of authority.
    - a. By helping them learn to respect our word, they will learn to respect the word of others in authority—teachers, coaches, etc., but especially God.
  2. The value of obedience.
    - a. Obviously, obedience is critical to pleasing God, so why not get them conditioned to it at an early age.
  3. Self-control.
    - a. Boundaries have been established to their behavior. They know they can't just do what they please.
  4. The fear of punishment in general, which will hopefully lead them to specifically fear God's punishment.
    - a. Thoughts of hell just don't seem to scare some people. Maybe it's because fear is not being taught at home.
  5. They become more conscious of wrong-doing, when they have been consistently disciplined.
    - a. This may help prepare a young person to obey the gospel.
- III. But these things are not going to happen, unless we follow God's plan. What we read in the passages earlier is not always being done today.
- A. Let's talk about what we sometimes do instead.
1. We try it for awhile, and then give up, saying that spanking doesn't work.
    - a. Let's be careful about calling God a liar. The results are not always instant.

2. We make excuses for our children, instead of giving them what they need.
  - a. “She just never has liked a bath.” Does that make it okay for her to pitch a fit every time she needs one?
  - b. “He just would not take a nap.” Is it really up to them?
  - c. “He’s tired, he’s not feeling well.” Certainly, this can be a factor in their behavior, but maybe the reason we keep saying this is because we don’t have the gumption to do what needs to be done.
  - d. “She’s just 2, or 3, or 4 (pick an age).” The earlier we can bring their will under control, the better off we’ll all be.
  - e. Yes, some children are more stubborn than others, but that just means we’ve got to work harder to bring them “in submission with all reverence.”
3. We also make excuses for ourselves.
  - a. “I don’t want to be overly strict.” It is not being overly strict to make them follow the rules. Being overly strict is making too many rules.
  - b. “I’m being patient with my children.” Patience is not letting disobedience go. We must continue to discipline, while we patiently wait for the results.
4. Another thing we do is beg and plead with our children. We can’t get them to do what we say, so we offer them candy or a trip to McDonalds. We entice them to obedience by the offer of a Happy Meal.
  - a. How much fear are we instilling in them when we do such things?

## CONCLUSION:

1. May God help us to raise our children in such a way that there is “fear (of their parents) before their eyes.”
2. More than that, may God help us to mold them into the image of Jesus Christ, which is exactly what His word is designed to do.
3. But in terms of the goodness and severity we’ve talked about...
  - a. We need to play with our children, encourage our children, praise our children, make sacrifices for our children, and in many other ways show them just how much they are loved.
  - b. But we also need to let them know who’s in charge. They need to learn that disobedience has painful consequences.