

# God's Children

## Hebrews 12:1-11

## Our Relationship with God

- Created in His image: Genesis 1:26-27
  - Adam's son Seth was in his image and likeness - Genesis 5:3
- We are His children:
  - John 1:12; Romans 8:16; 1 John 3:1-10
- His ways are above our ways – Isaiah 55:8-9
  - Our ways are above our children's - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13
- Our children provide insight into his dealings and view of us – Hebrews 12:1-11

## We are His Children

- He disciplines us –
  - Through scripture - 2 Timothy 3:16
  - To remove foolishness – Proverbs 22:15
  - To remove evil - Proverbs 20:30
  - To prevent death – Proverbs 23:13-14
  - Because he loves us - Revelation 3:19

## Discipline

- Proverbs 22:15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him
- Proverbs 23:13 Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die
- Proverbs 13:24 He who withholds his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him diligently
- Job 33:16 Then He opens the ears of men and seals their instruction
- Proverbs 8:10 Take my instruction and not silver and knowledge rather than choicest gold
- Proverbs 23:23 Buy truth and do not sell it, Get wisdom and instruction and understanding
- Proverbs 13:18 Poverty and shame will come to him who neglects discipline but he who regards reproof will be honored

## Discipline – Why?

- **Proverbs 3:11-12** My son, do not reject the discipline of the Lord Or loathe His reproof, 12 For whom the Lord loves He reproves, Even as a father corrects the son in whom he delights.
- **Proverbs 5:23** He will die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he will go astray.
- **Hebrews 12:10** For they disciplined us for a short time as seemed best to them, but He disciplines us for our good, so that we may share His holiness.
- **1 Corinthians 11:32** But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.
- **1 Peter 4:17-18** For it is time for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us first, what will be the outcome for those who do not obey the gospel of God? 18 And if it is with difficulty that the righteous is saved, what will become of the godless man and the sinner?

## Discipline – If we don't listen

- **Proverbs 29:1** A man who hardens his neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.
- **Proverbs 1:24-33** "Because I called and you refused, I stretched out my hand and no one paid attention; 25 And you neglected all my counsel And did not want my reproof; 26 I will also laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your dread comes, 27 When your dread comes like a storm And your calamity comes like a whirlwind, when distress and anguish come upon you. 28 "Then they will call on me, but I will not answer; They will seek me diligently but they will not find me, 29 Because they hated knowledge And did not choose the fear of the Lord. 30 "They would not accept my counsel, They spurned all my reproof. 31 "So they shall eat of the fruit of their own way And be satiated with their own devices. 32 "For the waywardness of the naive will kill them, And the complacency of fools will destroy them. 33 "But he who listens to me shall live securely And will be at ease from the dread of evil."

## Discipline – If we don't listen

- Deuteronomy 21:18-21 – <sup>18</sup>“If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, <sup>19</sup> then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. <sup>20</sup> They shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ <sup>21</sup> Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear.”
- Rebukes who he loves – Hebrews 12:6; Proverbs 3:11-12

## God's Children

- Is it ok for our children to lie?
  - Proverbs 6:16-19; 19:9; 12:22; Colossians 3:9-10; Revelation 21:8
- Manipulate / deceive? Romans 16:17-18; 1 Timothy 2:14; Psalms 101:7
  - control or influence (a person or situation) cleverly, unfairly, or unscrupulously. **synonyms:** control, influence, use/turn to one's advantage, exploit, maneuver, engineer, steer, direct
- Fight with each other? - James 4:1-3
  - Proverbs 17:14; 20:3

## God's Children

- Matthew 18:21-35 – How do children forgive?
- When I was a child ... - 1 Corinthians 13:11-13
  - Do we act as children? Yes, otherwise God would not have made the analogy.
- Watch, learn, study your children how they act, how you deal with them - **Apply all of that to yourself**

## We are still “14” in God's eyes

- Mark Twain:
- “When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished by how much he'd learned in seven years.”

## Learn From Those you Correct

- Romans 2: 17-24 But if you bear the name “Jew” and rely upon the Law and boast in God, and know His will and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law, and are confident that you yourself are a guide to the blind, a light to those who are in darkness, a corrector of the foolish, a teacher of the immature, having in the Law the embodiment of knowledge and of the truth, you, therefore, who teach another, do you not teach yourself? You who preach that one shall not steal, do you steal? You who say that one should not commit adultery, do you commit adultery? You who abhor idols, do you rob temples? You who boast in the Law, through your breaking the Law, do you dishonor God? For “THE NAME OF GOD IS BLASPHEMED AMONG THE GENTILES BECAUSE OF YOU,” just as it is written.