



GODLY DISCIPLINE VS WORLDLY PUNISHMENT

As children of God, we have been rescued from the punishment of our sins through our salvation in Jesus. He bore our shame; He paid the price (1 Peter 2:24). There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus (Romans 8:1).

Many people struggle in their walk with God because they have an unhealthy fear of Him. In such cases, there's a strong chance that as children, the discipline they received from their earthly parents was not biblical discipline but punishment. This skews their perspective of God as a loving Father and keeps them bound to shame, often causing emotional growth to get "stuck" at the age they were most deeply wounded. This misguided perspective of God keeps them from maturing into men and women of honor and integrity who obey God's precepts out of a genuine heart that values relationship with God. Instead, their motivation to obey God is rooted in fear, control, or manipulation.

DISCIPLINE is actually PUNISHMENT any time it involves shaming words, verbal, physical or emotional abuse, consequences that are greater than the crime, unexpected consequences for actions the child did not know were wrong, or consequences greater than is age appropriate developmentally.

Both discipline and punishment teach obedience and respect of authority. Both can be painful. Yet the fruit of they produce in the life of the child is very different.

DISCIPLINE leaves me feeling:

Loved
Accepted
Good about myself
Peaceful
Dignified
Blessed
Trained
Righteous

PUNISHMENT leaves me feeling:

Afraid
Insecure
Harmed
Angry
Ashamed
Cursed
Controlled
Vengeful

Blessed is the one you discipline, Lord, the one you teach from your law, Psalm 94:12.

...because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in, Proverbs 3:12.

And have you completely forgotten this word of encouragement that addresses you as a father addresses his son? It says, "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son," Hebrews 12:5-6.

*They disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us **for our good**, in order that we may **share in his holiness**. 11 No 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 12:10-11.*

*This is how love is made complete among us so that we will **have confidence** on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But **perfect love drives out fear**, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love, I John 4:17-18.*

For if God did not spare angels when they sinned, but sent them to hell,[a] putting them in chains of darkness to be held for judgment; 5 if he did not spare the ancient world when he brought the flood on its ungodly people, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others; 6 if he condemned the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah by burning them to ashes, and made them an example of what is going to happen to the ungodly; 7 and if he rescued Lot, a righteous man, who was distressed by the depraved conduct of the lawless 8 (for that righteous man, living among them day after day, was tormented in his righteous soul by the lawless deeds he saw and heard)— 9 if this is so, then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. 10 This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire of the flesh and despise authority, 2 Peter 2:4-10.

By Dana Grindal – *Free to be Me*