

CHRISTIAN BELIEFS, UNDERSTANDINGS, & BIBLICAL APPROACH TO DISCIPLINE

Through a relationship with the Father, we as children of the Father continue to come to understand His Heart. As such, we see that He truly is a Loving Father that is beyond measure and time. His jealousy for all of us is so great and always so good—He really does only want the best for us in any and all situations of life. And this Love was demonstrated through the pure heart and ministry of Jesus Christ—Jesus embodied the Spirit of the Father and in all ways showed us the Heart of the Father. This is what we believe and hold true in our hearts.

The following are beliefs and understandings through scripture that share some of what we hold true about the Love of the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Ghost.

- God the Father Loves everyone in this world. So much so, that through the sacrificial giving of His Only Son (Christ Jesus), He has Gifted us Forgiveness, Righteousness, Health & Healing, and a personal intimate relationship with Him as a Father.
 - [John 3:16-17](#). [Romans 3:21-22](#). [Hebrews 10:12](#). [1 Peter 2:24](#).
- God is Love. This type of Love is not of our own ability, but God's unique "Agape" Love as defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. This Love, and no other, is what is demonstrated to all the world from the Father. And this is the Love we gain in and through ourselves when we accept Him into our hearts. And His only command to us is to Love Him and each other in that Agape Love which only comes from His ability in us.
 - [John 13:24](#). [John 15:12](#). [1 John 3:23](#). [1 John 4:7,16](#). [1 Corinthians 13:4-8](#).
- The Kingdom of Heaven / Kingdom of God is in us now. It is not a place yet to come (a future Heaven / Reign), or a ritual (religious activity); but Power and Righteousness and Peace and Joy in the Holy Spirit.
 - [Matthew 6:33](#). [Luke 17:21](#). [Romans 14:17](#). [1 Corinthians 4:20](#).
- Men and women are created equally and have always been so. We are all created in the likeness of the Father, Son (Jesus Christ), and Holy Spirit; not only from the beginning of Creation, but now. This was clearly demonstrated in the ministry of Jesus; and is demonstrated now through Christ, to us from the Father, and in the working of the same Holy Spirit with and in both males and females. The Lord is no respecter of persons.
 - [Genesis 1:26-28](#). [Acts 10:34-35](#). [Romans 2:11](#). [Galatians 3:26-28](#). [Colossians 3:9-17](#).
- Righteousness has been Gifted to all through the Completed Work of Christ Jesus. It has been Gifted to all of us by God's Grace through the finished Faith of Christ Jesus; not by our works (self-righteous acts), nor through the Law (which has been fulfilled by Christ). It is unto all, and upon all that believe.
 - [Romans 3:21-22](#). [Galatians 2:16](#). [Ephesians 2:8](#).
- Salvation is the God-Gifted deliverance and preservation of a person out from the ways of self, the world, and Satan; to live a Kingdom life now on earth. It exists for all, and becomes personal (manifests) upon believing in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. It is by God's Grace through Christ's Faith; which we in turn believe, and thus come into salvation. It begins upon believing, and is fulfilled when a believer dies; guaranteeing eternal existence with the Lord. There is no other way to obtain salvation but by believing in Christ Jesus.
 - [Luke 3:4-6](#). [Acts 4:10-12](#). [Romans 1:16](#). [Romans 10:9-10](#). [Romans 13:11](#). [Ephesians 1:13-14](#).
[Ephesians 2:8-9](#). [Philippians 2:12-13](#). [2 Thessalonians 2:13-14](#). [Titus 2:11](#).
- The Holy Spirit has been gifted to every person on earth. He is with us all, and in all who accept His infilling. And this infilling does not differ from person-to-person (regardless of gender, age, status, culture, or nationality)—for the Lord is no respecter of persons.
 - [John 15:26](#). [John 16:7-11,13](#). [Acts 2:1-18](#) ([Joel 2:28-29](#)). [Acts 10:34-35](#). [Romans 2:11](#). [Galatians 3:26-28](#).
- The Holy Spirit does not condemn us of the sins of our flesh; He only brings to light the sin of not believing in Jesus Christ as our Saviour. When we do not accept the testimony of Truth from the Holy Spirit to believe in Christ Jesus, it is that sin of not believing that is not forgiven. However, when we are Born-Again through believing on Him, that sin is forgiven. All other sins (all the sins of the flesh) were forgiven once-and-for-all-time at the Cross, and we do not need to ask forgiveness of them.
 - [Matthew 12:30-32](#). [Mark 3:27-30](#). [John 14:6](#). [John 15:26](#). [John 16:7-11,13](#). [Hebrews 10:12](#). [1 John 5:6-11](#).

- Gifts of the Holy Spirit are for all who believe as part of His Kingdom in us now. The Lord has blessed us with all Spiritual blessings and demonstrates Himself through signs and wonders; including miracles, healings, prophesy, words of knowledge, speaking in tongues, and more. Each one of us as believers can operate in all of the Holy Spirit's Gifts, just as Jesus Christ Himself demonstrated and more. They are both a testimony of Christ's accomplishment, and the Lord's Love to both believers and non-believers.
 - [Mark 16:16-18](#). [John 14:12](#). [Acts 4:29-31](#). [Ephesians 1:3](#).

These become a testimony in our lives and relationship with Him. This experiencing of Him is what makes Him so personal—this is His Love towards us and for us. He wants to demonstrate Himself to us, so we can fully understand His Love for everyone on this earth.

BIBLICAL APPROACH TO DISCIPLINE

As a school with many adults and children, we understand that we all have been disciplined in various ways. Because of this, we want to make clear how the school handles discipline in a Biblical way. We want to demonstrate to these children how God our Father raises us as His children. The following study and explanation is a Biblical understanding the school holds true in their approach to discipline.

Raising Children as the Lord Raises Us:

One of the approaches the school has adopted regarding discipline is called: [Positive Behavior Intervention and Support](#). In brief, what this entails is encouraging good behaviour through a focus on rewarding positive behavior; in lieu of a punishment system of bad behaviour—in a sense, focusing attention on the positive, not the negative. Oftentimes, the reason a child acts out is just for attention. If they are punished (being hit or spanked or demeaned) for what they have done, in the child's eye, they have been rewarded with what they seek: attention. This often leads to worse behaviour as one type of disobedience for attention gets normalized, and they thus seek out other means of bad behaviour for attention. However, that same "attention reward" the child seeks can be achieved through the positive behaviours the child does or can be guided into doing.

This scientific and psychological approach mimics how God our Father guides and treats us (all people) as children. This is not the approach of: "spare the rod, spoil the child"—likened to this biblical passage:

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares his rod, hates his son; but he who loves him, disciplines him promptly.

This verse has often been translated to mean a "spanking"—whether by hand, a belt, a wooden spoon, hair brush, slipper, or by a cane / stick / paddle. But this is NOT how God our Father disciplines us—He does not have a punishing hand of discipline upon us!

From the Proverbs 13:24 verse, the rod being discussed is a shepherd's staff. It is used to gently reach out and guide or direct a sheep that may be stepping away from the group as they travel—as [this video shows](#) (<https://goo.gl/4J9iHu>). It is not used to hit or hurt the sheep, but just as a gentle boundary to keep the sheep with the group and where the shepherd is trying to lead them—often to "greener pastures" ([Psalms 23:1-2](#)). Exactly as the Lord does.

Secondly, the word "promptly" means early—early in the child's life. But it also means diligently; for a parent must be diligent, having or showing care and conscientiousness. It is important to make sure we guide and direct children early in life. In doing so, it just saves us and them from having to correct behaviours later in life (including

the removal of mis-taught / mis-learned strongholds) that may get rooted, making it more difficult to remove or correct.

But even if a parent does pass down to their children unintentional (or intentional) iniquities, God's Grace is there for them as well. We know He never holds our faults or the faults of our parents against us. [He watches over and takes care of those handed-down iniquities of the children and of the parents \(https://goo.gl/VtJxLr\)](https://goo.gl/VtJxLr).

Unfortunately, a person can hold true for themselves the way the Lord had to deal with His chosen people in the Old Testament through strife, sickness, and death. But we do not live in the Old Testament—nor were we ever under the Law! None of us are under the Law. The Law was given to a specific group of people's during a specific season (time-frame) that has since ended and never applied to us. His Grace has remained in existence from the beginning, even to those outside the Law during the time of the Law.

God is Agape Love and Grace. And what Jesus demonstrated while on this earth is the true Nature and Heart of the Father: a healer, a forgiver, and one who does not judge us. Everything Jesus did is what He saw His Father do; and none of it was putting sickness on anyone, stoning or physically punishing anyone, killing anyone, or judging anyone. This is His True self and how He treats us. These are the guidelines that the Lord follows with us.

God our Father cannot punish us, because His Wrath was poured out on Jesus Christ and all the [sins of our flesh \(https://goo.gl/GgC3bT\)](https://goo.gl/GgC3bT) were forgiven. Since we exist in perpetual forgiveness of our sins, how is He justified in punishing us...for He cannot break His Word and Covenant through Christ Jesus with us. He is no respecter of persons ([Acts 10:34](#), [Romans 2:11](#), [Ephesians 6:9](#))—in that He cannot treat anyone differently than anyone else. All are Righteous in Christ and therefore He cannot treat us differently. The only way He can treat us and does treat us is in His Agape Love and Grace.

Thus, the only way the Lord discipline us is through His Word. This is the ONLY way.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for teaching and instruction, for proof, for restoration and correction, with regard to training by righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

Colossians 3:14-16

And above all these things put on [Agape Love], which is the bond of perfectness. And let [God's peace towards you] rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; [letting it] teach and admonish yourself with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; singing with Grace in your hearts to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:18-20

...but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord; Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Ephesians 6:9

And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is [forbearing threatening] in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

On a side note for what is translated in Hebrews 12:1-12 regarding the Lord "chastening" us as children; the words chastening used in those passages are the Greek words: *paideia*, *paideutēs*, and *paideuō*. These words are defined as training & educating (cultivating the mind), instructing, teaching, and to train & correct with words. In

the context of God's Agape Love and demonstrations of what Jesus did to others, "chastening" has nothing to do with physical punishment or scourging.

Hebrews 12:1-11

Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God. For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds. Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin. And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaks unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the ~~chastening~~ TEACHING of the Lord, nor faint when thou art ~~rebuked~~ GENTLY CORRECTED of him: For whom the Lord loves he ~~chastens~~ TEACHES, and ~~scourges~~ [even as a father the son in whom he delights] ([Proverbs 3:12](#)). If ye endure ~~chastening~~ TRAINING / EDUCATION, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father ~~chastens~~ TEACHES not? But if ye be without ~~chastisement~~ TEACHING, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore, we have had fathers of our flesh which ~~corrected~~ TAUGHT / INSTRUCTED us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live? For they verily for a few days ~~chastened~~ TAUGHT us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no ~~chastening~~ TEACHING for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

He does not hurt us! He teaches and instructs us through His goodness and kindness, not wrath. There is no fear in, of, from, and to the Lord.

Romans 2:4

...[do you not know] that the goodness and kindness of God leads [a person] to repentance?

1 Corinthians 2:12-13

Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Ghost teaches; comparing spiritual (worldly) with spiritual (Godly).

Thus, we are left with God leading us, training us, and educating us in and by His Word and the Holy Ghost in Goodness and Kindness. This is the most powerful tool He has for us, because the Word and the Holy Ghost delve into every aspect of our life physically & spiritually:

Hebrews 4:12

For the Word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and [will] of the heart.

Because of what Jesus Christ accomplished for us, we have His ability to change our heart and change our life. We can achieve all He made us to be as New Creations in Him. But we can only achieve this when we don't have a fear of God's wrath, but live knowing He is Love and He is not angry with us. If we fear God (not talking about respecting Him, but a terror / fear of Him), we refrain from coming close to Him and creating a true, trusting, and open relationship with Him. He has adopted us as His children, never forsaking us into abandonment again!

Romans 5:1

Therefore, being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but we have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

This is the same kind of adoption parents and individuals must have with their own children, and any children in their lives. How someone treats a child, affects them (positive or negative) for the rest of their lives. This happens to everyone on this earth.

When someone physically or verbally punishes a child, it creates misunderstanding in the child's soul; and inevitably, fear. This fear, though it may temporarily disrupt a behavioural pattern, creates a sense of abandonment, not closeness associated with God's adoption. And moreso, fear never is an absolute deterrent.

We can plainly see this in the world today: neither jail time, death sentences, warning labels on alcohol / cigarette packages, or pictures of rotted teeth at the dentist has nullified all the behavioural problems associated with crime, abuse, addiction, and poor hygiene (self-care). We must never use fear, as this only provokes them towards wrath (their anger towards others or back to the source). It creates division, not unity.

Ephesians 6:4

And, you fathers (parents), provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the training and exhortation of the Lord.

We must always use Love. And if there has been fear created, we eliminate that fear through Love, through His Spirit in us (God's Agape Love):

1 John 4:18

There is no fear in Love; but perfect Love casts out fear: because fear hath torment. He that fears is not made perfect in Love.

This is the approach the school takes as a "parent" over the children here. And this often takes much Spiritual Patience—just as the Lord does with all humanity. This is the correlation between a person as a parent, and Him as a Parent.

When we see the children at school behaving inappropriately, or carelessly, we can foresee the consequences to their actions because we have either experienced ourselves personally, or just have more knowledge and experience in understanding than they have. And this is the revelation of Him as a Parent: because ourselves, as a child of God our Father, He knows more than us for us and our situation. Yet, we must remember that even though we mess up or don't hear Him clearly as a person or parent, He never is angry with us, nor is out to punish us. We are like a child who does not always understand the how's or why's of life; but our Father does! And it is not our duty to know all the why's or how's; our duty is to believe Him and just do what He asks. Obedience.

And the only way we are willing to be obedient is if we trust Him. And the only way we can trust Him is knowing He is not angry with us. This is His True Agape Love for us: for God IS Love ([1 John 4:16](#)).

Fear also leads a child into self-condemnation. It creates an expectancy towards perfection; that when not achieved (to avoid punishment), the child then develops self-doubt, shame, and a sense of failure. They then condemn themselves as being not good enough. Yet, we need to establish a trust through Love that brings the child close, even when they make a mistake. That they feel they can approach us without feeling they are going to get punished. This is the same approach the Lord takes.

1 John 3:21

When we are confident towards God, we won't condemn ourself in our heart.

If we fear Him, how can we be confident towards Him. And if we can't be confident that He is NOT going to punish us, we fear Him and believe we are not good enough for Him. We then condemn ourselves in our heart.

Likewise, if we fear Him, why would we obey Him? If your child, or any child fears you, why would they want to obey you as a parent? When we eliminate fear and establish trust, then all that is needed are words of guidance and insight to steer and guide the child.

The Lord gently stretches out His guiding hand to gently keep us (as His sheep) in the correct direction. And we, as sheep, also hear and understand our shepherd's voice to know where we need to be and the safe direction He is leading us. Now THAT is the gentle and kind Father we need to come to know! And this is the kind and gentle parent we need to be—at home, at school, and anywhere!

God Bless (as He always does),

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