

# *Training with Discipline and Instruction of the Lord for their good*

by Mary Diachenko

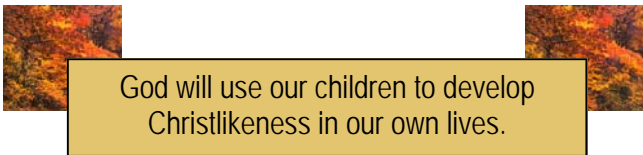
*All discipline for the moment  
seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful;  
yet to those who have been trained by it,  
afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.  
~ Hebrews 12:11*

## *Attitudes About Discipline*

### *A. Negative Attitudes . . . and where they might lead*

1. "I can't discipline my children correctly, because I was never disciplined in the right way. I don't know how." This is an attitude of mistrust in your Heavenly Father who has promised you His guidance.
2. "I can't discipline my children correctly, because I didn't respond correctly to my parents' discipline." To put it simply, you must ask God for forgiveness, and for the sake of your dear children, press on.

This isn't about **You**, it's about your **Lord**, who never gives a command without giving the grace and strength to help you through. You must go on in faith and obedience.



God will use our children to develop  
Christlikeness in our own lives.

3. "If I discipline my children they'll make me happy."  
If you're a great disciplinarian, you could have an army-like atmosphere at home. "Do what I do and what I say when I say and we'll all be happy!" (Illustration: using the demerit system) Lots of rules! Lots more headaches!!!

If you're not a great disciplinarian, you'll probably begin to get real confused as to what will make you happy. Chances are, you'll give up on the discipline and try to "keep the peace" at all costs. This could lead to discipline out of anger, because your child won't make you look good. Pride gets in the way. It's easy to manipulate, put your child on a "guilt trip", nag, etc.

## *B. Positive Attitudes*

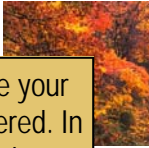
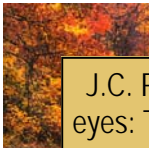
1. "I need to discipline my children with the goal of pleasing God, and the spiritual well-being of my child." This comes out of love for God and my children. You'll be searching the Scripture to see how God wants you to discipline your children. As you see results, you'll be encouraged to continue.
2. "I need to discipline my children in the right way so that they will learn to accept God's discipline."

Think of discipline like this:

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart  
and do not lean on your own understanding.  
In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
and He will make your paths straight.  
~ Proverbs 3:5-6*



We need God's help to know what to do, and we need for our children to adopt this same trust in the Lord. We are trying to keep them on the right path as our Heavenly Father is trying to keep us on the right path.



J.C. Ryle said: "Train with this thought continually before your eyes: The soul of your child is the first thing to be considered. In every step that you take about them, in every plan and scheme and arrangement that concerns them, do not leave out that mighty question, 'How will this affect their souls?'"

## *Strategies of Discipline*

*Take the time to really know each of your children, so that you understand them.*

This will help you know how to correct them as individuals.

1. Adjust your methods to their ages.
2. The rod will give way to reproofs by word and by consequences wisely dealt with.

*Stay unified with your husband.*

Children won't follow a double standard. (Prov. 6:20)

1. Know what your husband wants for your children. Talk about rules and methods.
2. Don't let your children divide you. All children are good at this!
3. If possible, pray together for your children and their specific needs.
4. Don't ever argue with your husband about a rule in front of your children.
5. Discuss difficult situations and determine together what to do.

*Let your children know house rules ahead of time.*

They need to know what's expected of them.

1. Don't be arbitrary.
2. Keep your rules to a minimum.
3. Follow through with your commands. Let them know the consequences of disobedience.
4. Let consequences do their job. Don't confuse tenderheartedness on your part with your unwillingness to let God do His work.
5. Ask forgiveness if you haven't been consistent, and begin again.

*When children are caught in a sin, look at this as a God-given opportunity.*

1. Don't overreact. Take time to talk with your husband about the discipline.
2. Don't ridicule.
3. Leave them with hope.
4. Use the Scripture, but not to beat them over the head.
5. Work towards getting to the heart . . . confession of sin.
6. Continue to help this child to be strengthened to keep doing right.

### *Look for the right time to deal with a matter.*

1. Seize the moment. There are times when your teen is saying: "My heart is open—talk with me." If they are sinning in an area of their lives, and are under conviction, if something bad happens to them they might be asking: "Is this because of my sin?" Take these times seriously, and do a little probing into what they mean.
2. Don't reprove in front of others.
3. Talk, talk, talk! Don't settle for "Yes" and "No" answers to your questions. Try to find out why they're having trouble obeying in certain areas.
4. Be willing to confront. If you're continually wondering if your teen is saved, you are probably right. Ask him in love. Try to get to the truth.

### *Take a good look at yourself. Listen to yourself.*

Your teen sees everything about you. They see your responses, good and bad, and the ones you think are hidden.

1. Is your teen having trouble being forgiving? Are you forgiving? Are you holding a grudge? (Eph. 4:32)
2. Do you hear harsh words spoken to siblings? Do you talk that way to them? (Prov. 15:1)
3. Is there a rebel spirit? Do you rebel against your authorities? (Eph. 5:22)

### *If you try to hang onto your teen at all costs, you might find yourself:*

1. Afraid to discipline for fear of "losing them." Ask yourself the question: "Have I already lost them?"
2. Spending all your time on that one teen to the detriment of your other children.
3. Allowing them to do things in your home that are obviously wrong.
4. Afraid to confront them about their salvation for fear of making them angry with you.
5. Siding with them against your husband.

### *Above all . . . Pray. Your Heavenly Father wants to guide you!*

### *Helpful Sources:*

"Don't Make Me Count to Three!" by Ginger Plowman  
Age of Opportunity by Paul David Tripp