

# Accepting Discipline

August 9, 2020

Proverbs 29:1-3, 12-20

Mention the word “discipline” and people give you all kinds of reactions. To many, discipline connotes drudgery. However, the athlete, the scientist, the theologian, and the businessman must be disciplined and focused if they are to succeed. In the same way, believers should welcome discipline for the purpose of holiness.

Our lesson today speaks of discipline and its effect in cultivating wisdom. Discipline can refer to any number of corrective measures taken to address and change unwanted behavior. Discipline does not necessarily always mean “punishment.”

Why is discipline so important? Discipline fosters growth and cultivates wisdom when done correctly. Proverbs encourages those with authority, particularly parents, to exercise discipline not as a way to be harsh, but as a way to help those under their care.

It is an unfortunate reality that evil exists in the world. When we are confronted with the gospel, we are confronted with our own sin. Because of this truth, God’s love is sometimes expressed towards His people as discipline. The Bible says, “*For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives*” (Hebrews 12:6).

Our Father does not want His children “broken beyond healing.” God loves us too much to let that happen. If He disciplines us, it is only to heal us and make us whole again.

*[excerpts from Travis Biller and Joshua Sharp]*

## The Goal (Proverbs 29:1-3)

- Discipline implies training. We train our children, ourselves, and even animals.
  - *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” 2 Timothy 3:16-17.*
    - Reproof-Correction-Instruction. One of God’s primary means of discipline is His word.
- Farm animals – mules, oxen, etc. - can be trained to do work. However sometimes they refuse to pull the plow or do what the farmer desires. They stiffen their neck and resist the farmer’s instruction.
  - Likewise, a stubborn person can refuse to take God’s reproof. Stubborn individuals reject God’s wisdom and rebel against Him.
- When a wicked leader comes to power, the people groan in misery. They lament a self-absorbed ruler who has no concern for them.
  - But when a righteous ruler is in power, the people rejoice. They flourish under the rule of one who loves the Lord and shows it in the way they treat others.
- Wisdom pleases our Father, but self-indulgence can waste fortunes.
  - Becoming more disciplined involves giving more attention to God’s will and not our will.
  - Self pleasing lusts take many forms, but the outcome always leads to destruction.

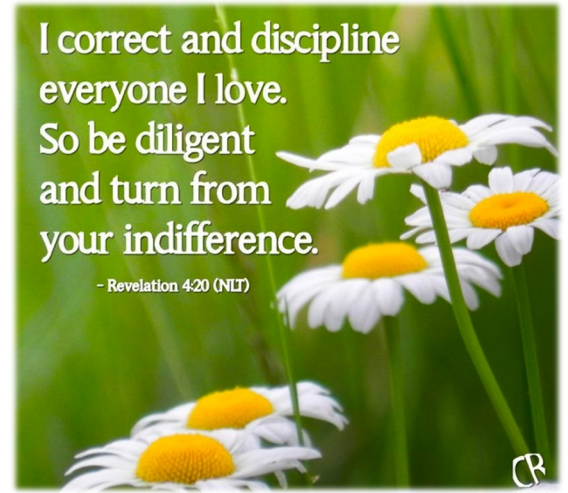
➤ **What lessons have you learned from the Lord’s discipline?**

➤ **How can you show love while correcting a stiff-necked person?**

*“A wise man will hear and will increase learning; and a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels.” Proverbs 1:5*

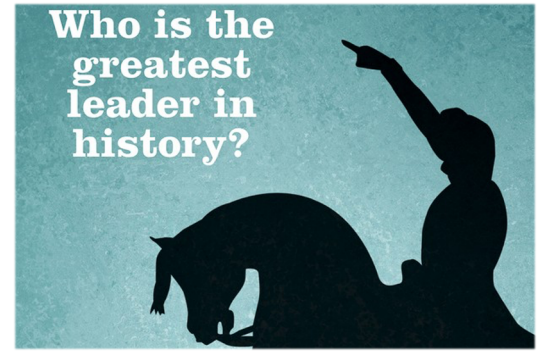
I correct and discipline  
everyone I love.  
So be diligent  
and turn from  
your indifference.

- Revelation 4:20 (NLT)



Love prospers when  
a fault is forgiven,  
but dwelling on it  
separates close  
friends. PROVERBS 17:9

Who is the  
greatest  
leader in  
history?



### The Availability (Proverbs 29:12-14)

- The ruler (leader) in Solomon's day combined the roles of the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government into a single office.
  - The king who judges also made the laws!
- When a ruler acts on false information, '*listens to lies*', a corrupt and oppressive government emerges.
  - The policies and ethics at the top filter down to those in the administration.
    - This in turn makes the officials wicked.
- The top official must ensure that truth dictates decisions at every level of government.
- The poor represent people who have no power.
  - God's wisdom (light) is available to all – both the poor and the oppressor.
- For a king who valued integrity, making righteous judgments is a priority.
  - He would judge the poor (those without power) fairly and with respect.
    - This would lead to the king gaining respect from his citizens.
    - Rendering fair judgments to powerless people would see his kingdom last forever.

### ➤ **Do you pray for your leaders to lead with integrity?**

### The Responsibility (Proverbs 29:15-17)

- Parents who have the best interests of their child at heart won't hesitate to discipline when necessary. They want their child to grow in wisdom – to become a wise adult.
  - On the other hand, abusive parents inflict pain on a defenseless child leaving lifelong emotional scars.
- Some parents allow their child to grow up without any discipline at all. "***Left to himself***" undisciplined children grow up aimlessly.
  - They spend their youth in pursuit of foolishness that brings shame to their mother.
- **What if no one is disciplined?** Then the whole community sees wickedness multiplied.
- Solomon encourages parents to correct their children. The day will come when rebellion will cease, and they will not live under the control of evil influences.
  - Righteous parents will be pleased that they taught their children well
  - The children too will be thankful they have been taught to live in an undisciplined world.
- Giving attention to the discipline of their children results in long-term blessings for parents.

### ➤ **At what age do parents stop correcting their children?**

### The Source (Proverbs 29:18-20)

- "***Where there is not vision, the people perish***"
  - Our church newsletter is named the "Vision" based on this verse.
    - Without discipline, without God's word, people perish.
- Christians may hear what God is saying, but we may not be willing to conform our lives in keeping with God's direction.
- Being disciplined means nurturing a humble and willing heart.

### ➤ **Where can you go to be quiet long enough to listen to God?**

### Parenting in Proverbs

- Parents give godly instruction to their children 1:8-9; 4:1-4; 6:20-24
- Parents delight in godly children
  - 17:6; 23:23-25; 29:3,17
- Parents discipline their children as an expression of love 3:12

God speaks to  
people who  
take the time  
to listen.



**Biblical Truth: God uses discipline from society, family, and others to shape His people.**