

Questions About the Rod

Review:

We must remember the problem and the purpose (the method is *not* the end):

1. The problem is deeply seated stubbornness and self-centered rebellion.
2. The purpose is restoration through brokenness (Matthew 5:3, etc.).

Reasons the rod might not work:

1. Your attitude is not being shaped by love and chastened by humility.
2. You are not *expecting* obedience (you are not intending to follow through).
 - a. God expects us to obey.
 - b. Expectation and follow through are fundamental to consistency and to clarity.
Your child will know when you do not expect obedience, and your follow through will demonstrate your expectations.
3. Your method is not bringing your child to brokenness.
 - a. Remember, the purpose is restoration through brokenness.
 - b. Your method is not appropriately applying pain to the child in a manner that will lead to repentance.
4. You are not *reasonably* consistent in your purpose and method.

A review of method:

1. Privacy
2. Clarity
3. Communication
4. Consistency

Is spanking the only appropriate consequence?

1. Pain is the principle because it is what strikes the heart of a child in manner conducive to brokenness.
Is your method bringing your child to an authentic brokenness?

[Harshness, force, shame, loudness, or other ungodly behaviors are not conducive to leading your child to brokenness.
Does your child reasonably know you love him and are acting toward him in love? This is what will promote contrition.]

How are you assessing that and what is your response when it is not there?

[Failing to bring your child to brokenness will leave your child angry.]

Is your method merciful in the long term or does it prolong the process?

2. Pain can be applied with other methods (though not very effectively with young children in most cases):
 - a. Children have different sensitivities (**remember** the purpose is restoration through brokenness)
 - b. Natural consequences can effectively bring pain, *especially when the issue is not defiance*.
 - c. Logical consequences can also bring pain and help an older child make connections among behaviors.

[There must be a clear connection between the offense and the consequence (e.g. homework vs. play time).]

Other Objections:

1. Meaning of "child"

Proverbs 22:15 "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a **child**; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him."

- a. The word "child" is narrow and is often used of older children.
 - Genesis 22:5
 - Genesis 37:2
- b. But the word is also used of infants, weaned children, and young boys.
 - Exodus 2:6 – Moses in the basket.
 - Judges 13:5, 7 – a child from the womb.
 - 1 Samuel 1:22 – Hannah's child not yet weaned.
 - 2 Samuel 12:16 – Bathsheba's infant.
 - Isaiah 8:4 – a boy before he knows how to cry "My father".
 - 1 Samuel 20:35 – a young lad with Jonathan when he meets David in a field.
 - 1 Kings 11:17 – Hadad is said to have fled to Egypt as a young lad (with his family).
- c. The word is the term best used for the broadest application.
- d. It would be foolish to wait until the teen years to begin "discipline".

"The rod of **discipline** will remove it far from him."

Would there be a reasonable expectation that a rod will remove foolishness from a rebellious teenager or young adult?

What degree of "violence" would be required for a parent to administer the rod to a teenager?

2. God has disposed a child's heart to listen to their parents.

- a. In the tender years, the rod is not necessary.
- b. Is this a biblical concept?