

HELEN SANDERS
4-25-2021
DISCIPLINE

Ask any loving mother or father that loves their children if they always give them everything. I would have to say that 100% would say “no.” There are many things that just aren’t good for our children, and if we give them everything and let them do whatever they want, it will be disastrous later.

There was a woman in our church that had two sons that were allowed to do anything they wanted. She had another son that had died from some disease and she was determined if she had more children that she would give them everything they desired. She was trying to live the deceased son’s life through these two boys. These boys got into everything in church, and she never told them to stop. They messed with equipment that they should not be messing with and did other things. They sassed and disrespected their mother, and she did not say a word. They didn’t stay with our church for any length of time. The woman’s husband divorced her because he could not stand a home out of control, leaving her and the two boys on their own.

There were times that I saw her after she left the church and she asked for advice because she was having problems with them as teenagers. My advice was to discipline the boys. Discipline shows that we are loved. Needless to say, she didn’t listen to the counsel and the oldest of the two boys got into trouble with drugs and got arrested. He was to do community service as “penance” for his offense. She asked if he could work in our thrift shop. I told her that the only way community service would work was if he also attended church and also do some labor in our thrift shop. She agreed. He came once and then called to say he could do community service elsewhere and not have to go to any church so he wouldn’t be back.

A few years after this there was a young man in filthy clothes and a beard laying on a bench in front of our church. It was the same young man. He was homeless. He recognized me and told me he had really messed up his life. I let him sleep on the bench and told him to stop by the church the next day and we would talk. He said he would, but never did. I do not know what has become of him, but his track record so far has shown that there was a washout ahead.

In proverbs 13:24 it says, ***“He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth (disciplines) him betimes (early).”*** It shows us that when we do not discipline a child that we hate that child. I honestly believe that this mother will be held accountable for not disciplining her sons. Yes, the young man is accountable too, but without the proper training when he was young, this boy was headed for destruction.

We should be thankful that a loving heavenly father disciplines us when we sin. He loves us that much my friends. He wants to correct us through discipline and put us on the right path. How does it work? We feel conviction from the Holy Spirit when we sin. We acknowledge our sin, repent, then ask for forgiveness. When we do not repent, we can be sure just like that young man, that there will be destruction ahead of us too.

Discipline is a good thing. Hebrews 12:8 says, ***“But if ye be without chastisement (discipline) whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.”*** Every child of God will be disciplined. Do not look at it as an enemy. Look at it as a gift from a loving Father.