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DISCIPLINE

When we think of discipline most shrink from the word. Many may have been disciplined harshly as children, and tend to be lenient with their families now. Others may never have been disciplined, and simply did what they wanted when they wanted and with whom they wanted. That isn't good either.

In Proverbs 13:24 it says ***"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."*** Hates his son? Yes, that is what it says. The rod could be a stick or a staff. Chasteneth means to properly warn or give instruction or correction, or rebuke. It means to train. Children often don't do what we expect. They do what we inspect.

I remember a lady once that had a five-year old boy. She had not potty trained him, and at five he was still in diapers. Her life was in chaos. Her home was in chaos. Was it the child's fault? I hardly think so. It showed her true lack of love for her child since she did not give him the training or discipline that he needed.

The early church called the followers of Jesus "disciples." It means that they were disciplined in the things of God. It took Jesus 3-1/2 years to teach them to be able to live disciplined lives. He taught them about forgiveness, sharing, love, servanthood, and much more. They were disciplined to become the men that would "turn the world upside down."

In this day and age we see the scripture in II Timothy 3:2 coming to pass. It says: ***that men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy..."*** Disobedience to parents is a sign of the last days. Now don't get me wrong, there are many good parents out there doing a good job, but there are also many that do not discipline their children with godly discipline.

We are to discipline our children in love. We are to teach them the things of God, and train them up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord. If we don't train them, the world will. An example of this is what one woman, Madeline Murray O'Hair did. Her son told her they were praying in school. Madeline was an atheist, and fought against prayer in school. She used her son Bill Murray as the example, saying that prayer was forced on him. She went to court and won. How sad that she, one atheist, took prayer out of school. Where were the Christians when this happened? Why didn't they fight it? I can't answer that, but prayer went up for her son, and he became a Christian, and denounced what his mother had done. He is now a minister of the gospel, and is helping change lives!

Discipline is a good thing my friends. It keeps peace in the world. It changes each of us by causing us to live lives according to God's standards instead of the world's standards. Never feel like you are doing something wrong by telling your children and grandchildren "no" They have to learn through training what is right and wrong. Then, they will grow up and be the kind of disciplined people that are respected by others.