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THE ROD OF CORRECTION

You have heard the old saying, "Spare the rod, and spoil the child." It is based largely on the scripture found in Proverbs 13:24 which says, ***"He that spareth his rod hateth his son. But he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."***

The Amplified Version reads more clearly. ***"He who withholds the rod [of discipline] hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines and trains him diligently and appropriately [with wisdom and love]."***

The worst thing a parent can do to a child is to simply let the child do whatever he wishes with no guidance or correction. They may even say "I want him (her) to make his own choices." However, a child does not have enough life experience to always make the best choices. This often leads to a lot of trouble in their life. It is one of the most unloving things a parent can do.

Another mistake is to give a child everything he wants all the time with no limits and no expectations. That leads to a spoiled and selfish child and adult.

Discipline should not be overly harsh. It should be done with love and wisdom. Spanking is not child abuse as present-day liberals and government agencies claim. It is only abusive when done harshly in anger. Use wisdom and moderation. Make sure they understand the issue. Talk to them and counsel them as the punishment is being administered.

God also punishes (chastens) his children to bring correction. Hebrews 12:6 says, ***"For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth. And scourgeth (whips, spans) every son he receiveth."*** Proverbs 3:12 says, ***"For whom the Lord loveth He correcteth. Even as a father (to) the son in whom he delighteth (loves)."***