



Discipline, or Discipline?

- Hebrews 12:5-11 – READ FROM THE NIV

- 5) And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him:
- 6) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- 7) If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
- 8) But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
- 9) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
- 10) For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.
- 11) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

- The reality is you don't really have a choice in the matter

- The fact of the matter is, God is going to make sure that we are disciplined
- We can either learn how to become Disciplined...
 - or God will discipline us...
- By the sounds of the description, Self-Discipline seems less painful
 - God uses the word chastisement here...
- 5) "... My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline."
 - Don't think that it's a light matter to fall into the hands of the Living God
 - This is the God who rained 10 plagues down upon Egypt...
 - This is the God that took away all that Job loved and cared for...
 - You don't think He could make your life a little difficult in order to try to teach you a lesson or two?
- 5) "... and do not lose heart when he rebukes you"
 - It's going to happen
 - Don't get depressed
 - Don't go thinking that God doesn't love you
 - Don't go thinking that life is unfair, and you are being cheated...
- 6) "because the Lord only disciplines those he loves"
 - God does love you
 - Because of that He wants you to succeed
 - He wants you to grow into the best person that you can be...
 - That is why he brings Discipline into our lives...
- Self-Discipline is our ability to teach ourselves to do the un-natural
 - Doing the unnatural means transforming our own nature

- Romans 12:1-2

- 1) I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.
- 2) And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

- We transform ourselves by the renewing of our minds
- We can only grow to serve God the way He wants us to by transforming our minds
 - By correcting of our minds
 - By finding out what is wrong in our thoughts and our actions and changing them
- We've looked at four tools to help us in that process:

1 – Delaying Gratification

- You must address your problems and solve them, before you go on to more pleasant things
 - Because your problems will not go away by themselves
- Don't ignore your problems
 - Don't just always try to have fun, when you have this thing nagging in the back of your head
 - Get rid of it, resolve it, correct it, transform it...
 - Then you can really enjoy life
 - Then you can really be free to serve God

2 – Accepting Responsibility

- You must accept responsibility for your problems before you can solve them
 - Don't blame other people or other things... There is no Devil.
 - Realize that YOU have a problem, and that YOU can fix it.

3 – Dedication to Truth

- You must be honest with yourself, when you examine yourself, so that you can correctly acknowledge your problems
 - Always look at yourself like your doing it for the first time
 - Why do I feel this way, why am I thinking this way...
 - Is it right? • Is there a better way.
 - Listen to what others tell you - Don't be afraid to be challenged
 - Gather all the information you can get so that you can make a good decision

4 – Balancing Your Life

- You must be willing to give up your opposing desires in order to solve your problems.
- Keep your life in Balance - Balanced on God and Godly things
- These are the tools that we use to develop ourselves into Disciplined Christians...
- These are the tools that God has given us to help us...
- We do not have to live this kind of life because we are being punished...
 - We are being treated this way, because God loves us...
 - God is treating us like a Son
- Hebrews 12:6-11

- 6) For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.
- 7) If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?
- 8) But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.
- 9) Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?
- 10) For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

- God wants us to be partakers of His holiness
 - 11) Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.
- God wants us to share in His Kingdom with Him
- God wants to treat us like His Son...
- The Son we are here to remember today
- Hebrews 12:1-3
 - 1) Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,
 - 2) Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.
 - 3) For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.
- Jesus endured the discipline of God
 - And is now seated at the right hand of God...
- If we want to be like Jesus
 - We must also be disciplined...