

The Duties of the Priest Part 13

The Role of the Church in Disciplining Children

Discipleship comes from the word discipline. Discipleship is the process to train and raise up key workers and leaders of the church. Each family is very important for the church because discipleship starts at home. Initially, the church is responsible to train and teach parents the Bible truth on how to implement discipline in their family, the local congregation in the church. Each and every family is a congregation that forms the church, and the church has an important role to direct the parents and help them be equipped to nurture children in a Godly manner.

The church also serves as the quality controller over each and every family so that sin cannot have a way to destroy homes, defile other families, and infect the church. When proper discipline is implemented in the family, the Christian home serves as a training center for young servants of God. On the contrary, if discipline is not implemented early in the family, children would grow undisciplined, disobedient, or rebellious. Then the role of the Church to that family in disciplining children is challenged. Parents need to be exact and act with discretion to adopt Biblical discipline.

“18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: 19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. 21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.” (Deuteronomy 21:18-21 KJV)

1. Both parents are involved in the child discipline: *“Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him,” (Deuteronomy 21:19 KJV)* * Both the father and the mother should agree with each other about the Word of God and about the discipline that they should apply to their children. * In some families the father is the one who is disciplining and spanking the children when they disobey but the mother is not involved and she is not willing to do so. Or the opposite, the mother is disciplining the children but the father is never involved and he is against it. In such situations, the children receive different messages from the parents and as an outcome, the discipline is ineffective and the child might even assume it as encouragement for doing wrong. Parents need to be unanimous in implementing discipline. If one of the parents is compromising, discipline does not help the child but will harm him. *“24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.” (Proverbs 13:24 KJV)*

2. Sin must be defined: In the above quoted passage from Deuteronomy, the sins that are mentioned are stubbornness, rebelliousness, not responding to discipline, gluttony, and drunkenness. The parents should be aware about the sins that their children are doing. Some parent says that their children are very good so they don't need to spank them, but it is incorrect because the Bible says that, *“15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.” (Proverbs 22:15 KJV)* So every parent should discover the shortcomings and foolishness of their children. If a child's sin is unclear

to the parents, they should pray and ask the LORD to reveal to them so that the sin is dealt properly and in timely manner. Similarly, the child should know and understand the wrong thing he has done and why he is being disciplined.

3. The parent should not cover up their children's sin: It is not something shameful if the children are doing wrong because this is expected from children. There are parents who cover up the sins of their children. Parents who cover up their children's sin have pride in their hearts and they feel ashamed that their children did something wrong. It is not absolutely shameful for the parents that their children have done wrong, but it is wrong and very shameful that parents do not deal with the sins of their children.

4. The parents who do not deal with their children's sins are sinning against the LORD: God entrusts children to the parents who should raise them and train them in the fear of the LORD. Unwillingness to do this responsibility is sin because God's Word says, *“5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:” (Deuteronomy 6:5-6 KJV)* Parents who really love the Lord are to impress, imprint or drum in God's commandments into their children's heart and mind in whatever situation, in whatever they do, or wherever they are. In this we need to apply proper discipline to our children, and as parents this we need to forcefully do if we truly love the Lord with all our heart, soul and strength.

5. When the children are not responding to the parents' discipline, the family should refer them to the church: It is mentioned in the Scripture that the child who is not listening to and obeying his parents after they discipline him, *“19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; 20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard.” (Deuteronomy 21:19-20 KJV)* If the child is not responding to the discipline of one of the parents, the other parent should be called and be involved in applying the discipline to the child. If the child is not responding to both parents, then the matter should be brought to the church. In the early life of God's chosen people, the elders at the gate of towns were their spiritual leaders equal to the pastor and elders of our Church today. Thus the pastor and the Church should be informed and be involved in disciplining a stubborn and rebellious child:

A. The Church leaders should examine the child's house atmosphere and cut off certain factors like TV, video games, bad toys, playmates, etc. that aggravate the child's condition and cause him to disobey. The pastor should explain to the parents the loop and footholds of the devil in the child's life and help them to eliminate those things in their house or from the child's surroundings. At this stage the child should be prayed over and should be given proper Bible Study and instructions from the Word of God to show him his wrong doing in a more profound way. *“1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1 KJV)*

B. The Church and the family need to be in one spirit to restrain and discipline the child. *“2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2 KJV)* If it is needed that the child is to be spanked by the elders of the church to restrain him then this thing needs to be done, so that the other children who hear will behave and listen to their

parents. *“11 And all Israel shall hear, and fear, and shall do no more any such wickedness as this is among you.” (Deuteronomy 13:11 KJV)* Actually, when there is a system in the church applied to help parents discipline their children, the children are afraid to disobey their parents and they behave better because they are ashamed to be exposed in Church.

C. Certain sins that involve the youths and young adults of Christian parents are to be dealt firmly according to *1 Corinthians 5:11-13*: *“11 But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolator, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat. 12 For what have I to do to judge them also that are without? do not ye judge them that are within? 13 But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.”* * The youth or the young adult who is committing adultery or any sort of immorality, stealing, cheating, who is a drunkard or doing aggressive things and not willing to repent should not be kept within the atmosphere of the family. The church would advise the parents to expel the adolescent child from their house and should not give any support until he or she repents and turn away from such sins. * Parents should love God more than their children and should not support their children if they are doing any shameful sin. The parents who stand with the LORD and do not compromise with the sins of their children and do not condone their wickedness, such parents need not to be ashamed of their children’s wrongdoing because they have done their part, and the church should support them spiritually, comfort them and encourage them to continue to do their ministry and service unto God.

D. If the adolescent child or young adult does not respond to the Church system of discipline then he is to be treated as a non-believer. In this way the church would start to evangelize and speak to him or her the Word of God. The Church should continue to pray and to study the psychology of that particular child and try to rehabilitate him or her. Regular visitation and Bible Study is to be given to the family with special consideration with regard to the unresponsive child.

E. The parents who condone their children’s sins and who continue to support their unrepentant adolescent children who are doing sins like adultery, immorality, stealing, cheating, drunkenness, or doing aggressive things, should not be approved by the Church as a royal priesthood or workers in the church. Such parents’ ministry in the church should discontinue. The Lord said, *“37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37 KJV)* Parents who are not able to manage their family and children well are not worthy to become royal priests or servants of God. Thus an elder or deacon or a servant of God, *“4 One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;” (1 Timothy 3:4 KJV)*

Let us consider another Scripture regarding the principle of referring to the Church, the child who is not responding to discipline: *“15 Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. 16 But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. 17 And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican.” (Matthew 18:15-17 KJV)* Our born again children are our brothers in the Lord. Parents who discover the wrong-doing of their children should immediately face and speak to them to explain about the consequence or punishment

of that sin. If the child does not respond, then both parents should speak to him or her to reach a decision. If the problem is not settled, it has to be referred to the church to apply the needed discipline to the child.

This system of referring to the church undisciplined and rebellious children should exist so that the families and other church members will not be infected and corrupted. God’s Word show us clearly His ways and convinces us with the truth that we need to follow. *“60 Many therefore of his disciples, when they had heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?” (John 6:60 KJV)?* Yes true some may say, *“This is an hard saying; who can hear it?”* But let us remember that the truth will set us free. *If we do not deal with the sin and accept the Word of God as the solution, our family will always be in bondage of that sin.* Many families and churches are destroyed by sin because no one is willing to stand with the truth and discipline the children. But when willingness to obey and a system exists that helps parents to implement child discipline, our children are taught to behave and to act according to the Word of God. Our children become true disciples of Christ, and we are sure that our Godly generation will continue. But if discipline is not implemented in our homes and in our church, the devil will take advantage and the lives of many families and children will come to ruin. So the challenge to implement discipline or to teach children to obey God’s rules remains. As royal priests and church leaders, let us fulfill our role to implement Biblical discipline to disciple the future generation.

My dear and beloved: Let us come now to God committing ourselves to implement what we had studied in this message in the life of the families of our church. Let us be willing to discipline our children, youths and young adults in dealing with the sin they are doing. Let us not condoning nor covering them up and sharing with their sins, but let us be willing to go through the ways of God and deal with their sins. Let us accept this challenge that God’s Word had placed before us, trusting Him that He will help us to deal with their sins, that He will give us the needed wisdom that will enable us to minister to them until they are cleansed from their foolishness.

Let us pray ...

My Prayer: *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus, who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal life. Lord thank you for your Word that I received in this message that showed me the way to deal with the sin of my children and the value of being in your church who will help me to do such. Lord thank you for my family and the children that you gave to me and thank you for all your provision and your help in my life.*

Come now to God and repent and renounce all your sins. Repent and renounce your non willingness to discipline your children and your condoning to them. Confess and renounce your non willingness to open your life and family problems to the church and asking help from them. Repent and renounce your lack of family worship, praying and reading the Bible with them. Repent of being yoked with non believers and spending much time with your friends, and on the Media, News and games. Repent of setting bad example to others. Repent of your non willingness to serve God and suffer for Him. Lord forgive me, I repent and renounce the following sins _____.

Lord I commit myself to start to discipline my children and to put rules for them to follow. Lord I commit myself to open my life and my family to the church and ask their advices and help to discipline my children to be cleansed from their sins. Lord I ask you to give me wisdom how to deal with each one of my children. Lord, I commit myself to have daily family worship, to read the Bible and to pray with them. Lord I commit myself to be good steward to all the resources that you give to me and set good example for my family to follow. Lord I commit myself to serve you and do my part to build up your church.

Lord, thank you for my Brothers and Sisters who repented of their sins and committed themselves to discipline their children and to open up to the church the struggles they are facing with them. Lord help them in their struggles with their children, help them to achieve that, reward them for their obedience, answer their prayers, protect them and provide their needs to continue to serve you. Lord I pray for those who are not yet repented that you will continue to convict them until they are willing to discipline their children, and submit fully to your will.

Lord bless us as your church, and help us to continue to keep the system of the children discipline in our church. Lord lead us to help the families who are willing to be helped. Lord we commit to you those parents who are not willing to discipline their children Lord you will be the one to discipline them. Lord we pray that you lead us with the Holy Spirit to new families who are in need for such a ministry to help them in their struggles with their youths and children. Lord we pray for more Godly marriages to happen and more Godly families to be formed. Lord refill us with the Holy Spirit and give us the Spiritual gifts that we need in our lives to go on and evangelize, and make disciples and train new workers to go and plant new Bible studies and congregations for the church. Lord fulfill the vision of the church, 'Multiplication in peace with implementing the whole will of God.' Lord bless us, enlarge our territory, let your hand be with us and free us from harm so that we will not feel pain. May the grace of the Lord Jesus and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all in Jesus name, Amen.

The Duties of the Priest Part 13. The role of the church in disciplining children. Deuteronomy 21:18-21. Proverbs 13:24. Proverbs 22:15. Deuteronomy 6:5-7. Galatians 6:1-2. Deuteronomy 13:11. 1 Corinthians 5:11-13. Matthew 10:37. I Timothy 3:4. Matthew 18:15-17. John 6:60.

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