

The Disciplines of God

Ray Stedman

I. Introduction.

A. Text: Hebrews 12:3-17.

B. The end of existence is to obey and serve God from love.

II. The basis for child training.

A. God is our great example for how to discipline our children.

B. We are God's legitimate children of God, and He loves us and is concerned about us.

III. The forces God uses to train us.

A. God uses law and grace.

B. These are not opposed to each other.

1. Law reflects God's expectations and demands upon humans that come from His own character.

2. We are to obey because it is like God.

3. Grace empowers the believer.

4. The law is a necessary part of the gospel—it is for those doing wrong things.

5. Grace lives peaceably with everyone. (Romans 12)

6. Law and grace are needed—law controls actions while grace controls attitude.

IV. The process God uses to train us.

A. Discipline.

1. This assigns certain tasks. Tasks teach us what to do.

2. God gives us directions on how to complete the task.

3. Limits and results must be set.

4. These must be enforced through encouragement, praise, and rebuke.

B. Punishment.

1. Forms of wrong punishment: to vent anger, to arouse fear by punishment, to seek revenge.

2. Forms of right punishment: to create seriousness, to distinguish right from wrong, to establish justice.

Application questions:

1. In what ways is God a model for parenting?

2. How is it that grace and law must work together in the parenting process?

3. What challenges you the most in the process of discipline? Explain.
