

## **7 Do's & Don'ts in Disciplining Children**

*by Roy Sharp (Henderson, TN)*

### **Introduction**

- i. Modern western families are not, as a norm, teaching self-discipline to their children.
- ii. External discipline, the one administered forcibly by parents and society, does not always translate into self-discipline.
- iii. Traditional values are usually interpreted by younger generations as old-fashioned and obsolete.
- iv. Young parents protest: "We must try to understand our children, we must be better than our own parents."
- v. This pseudo-scientific attitude, not supported by hard evidence, has caused the American family (in general) to forgive or turn a blind eye to small delinquent behavior in young children.
- vi. Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/1691324> – Jacques Sprenger is a special education teacher in Brownsville, Texas.

### **1. Do Not Fail to Discipline!**

- a. Discipline imparts wisdom and prevents parents from being disgraced (Prov. 29:15).
- b. Correction will not kill but will "deliver his soul from hell" (Prov. 23:13-14).

### **2. Do Follow God's Example!**

- a. A man who follows God's instruction is blessed (Psa. 94:12).
- b. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and instruction" (Prov. 1:7).
- c. God disciplines us for our profit (Heb. 12:9-10).

### **3. Do Not Provoke Children to Wrath!**

- a. Abusive discipline produces wrath.
- b. "Bring them up in the training (discipline) and admonition (instruction) of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).

### **4. Do Not Discipline in Anger!**

- a. Parents argue about the rights and wrongs of child discipline—one parent just wants to spank, the other believes family discussions are what's needed.
- b. When the parents themselves are at odds over the way discipline is handled, it doesn't take the children two minutes to have a very acute handle on the problem. Article Source: <http://EzineArticles.com/1042737>
- c. The difference between child abuse and discipline is like the difference between night and day.
  - (1) The one produces insecure, unhappy and undeveloped children.
  - (2) The other produces secure, joyful children whose potential is being realized.
- d. "Be angry and do not sin..." (Eph. 4:26).

### **5. Do Discipline to Correct and Train the Child!**

- a. Discipline is not joyful but painful.
- b. The yield is "the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it" (Heb. 12:9).

### **6. Do Teach Self Discipline!**

- a. "A man without self-control is like a city broken into and left without walls" (Prov. 25:28, ESV).
- b. "Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable" (1 Cor. 9:25, ESV).
- c. "For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control" (2 Tim. 1:7, ESV).

### **7. Do Set the Proper Course for Life!**

- a. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Prov. 22:6).
- b. "...Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4).