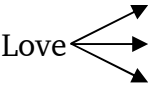
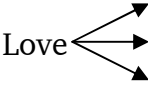


## **When God's Word Doesn't Seem to Make Sense The Enigma of Punishment**

### **1. Discipline: Outgrowth of Love – Heb 12:5-7**

A. **God:**  
Love  Chastening – *paideia* – The unpleasant aspect of training child.  
Rebuke – *elencho* – A deserved correction, conviction of wrong.  
Scourging – from *mastix* – a scourge, whip.

B. **World:** This is abuse, brutality, violence, violation of rights, inhumane, etc. It is outlawed in many European countries and will be here. Already chilling effect.

Love  Indulge  
Praise  
Reason } Pr 13:24 – “He who spares his rod hates his son”

C. The world's wisdom: “You can't teach a child not to hit by hitting!”

Answer: No, you teach a child to respect, obey parental authority which says, “Do not hit!” Create climate of respect. At *certain ages*, this is the best way to convey the message.

### **2. “If You Are Without Chastening ...” – Heb 12:8**

A. Why are so many children “without chastening”?

1. Parents tired – Either lazy or overworked; two working parents with no energy. Overcompensation for being gone too much.
2. No courage – Confrontation too unpleasant; don't want Johnny to cry, hate me. Call bluff: One parent let child bang head on floor in tantrum. Didn't last long.
3. Parents' past failures – “After all, **I** did such and such ... and I turned out OK.” Parents' mistakes don't rob of moral authority but substantiate it.

B. What does it produce? Smart-aleck kids with no respect for others or their property, chaos and bedlam (sometimes in *worship*), tantrums, demanding little dictators who run their households, weak parents who cannot muster control. **It produces REAL child abuse.** It produces in the end, *social turmoil and anarchy*. And it brings God's wrath – 1 Sam 2:22-25, 29-30, 3:13.

C. Effective chastening – Heb 12:11.

1. Momentarily grievous. *It must be unpleasant to deter.* Spanking gives way to other forms of discipline, but it must always have punitive value. We must be careful, however, not to go too far and provoke to wrath – Eph 6:4.

2. Afterward yields peaceable fruit of righteousness. Punishment is a training mechanism. It is not a way for parents to blow off steam or domineer their children but show them the benefits of respecting authority and living right.
3. There must be *balance*: love, affection, encouragement, time, praise along with limits, correction, punishment, accountability, restitution, etc.

### **3. The Good News: Parents Don't Have to Be Perfect – Heb 12:9-10**

- A. The proverbs are truisms, maxims – the speak of the way things generally go.  
Pr 23:13-14; 22:6, 15.
- B. However, there is a window of opportunity which may be missed – Pr 19:18.  
It is *younger* than inexperienced parents think. Children want and need limits, even though they resist and challenge those limits. Wise parents will not give in.
- C. Having done all, *there are no guarantees!* Even God's discipline did not ensure faithfulness on the part of Israel.

**Conclusion: This is a battle parents MUST win! You have to be tougher than your child. He/she needs strength, not a wimpy buddy. We need to earn their trust, just as we must learn to trust and obey God (am lesson).**