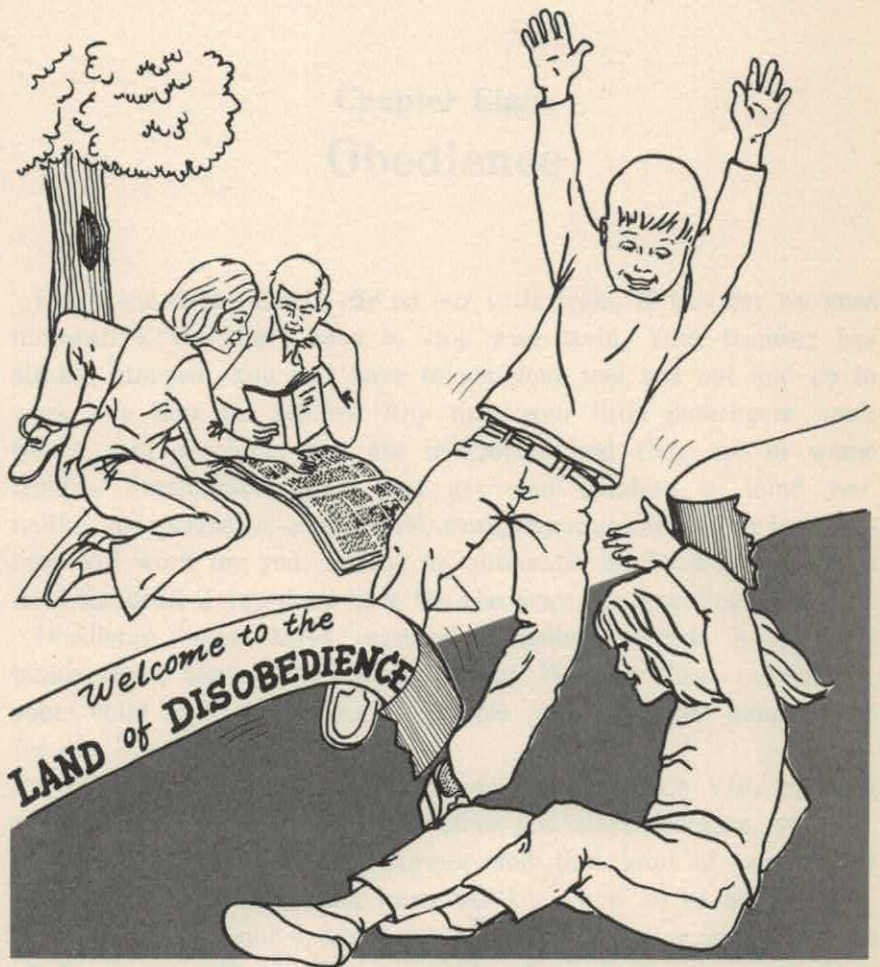


OBEDIENCE



The Race the VIP's Can't Win

Chapter Eight

Obedience

Obedience is the fourth car on our little train. If this car becomes inoperative, you don't have to stop your train. Your training has already stopped. You will have to get your tool box out and go to work. It's time for repairs. Any time your little passengers won't follow your teaching, you are in trouble and they are in worse trouble. Furthermore, until you get your children to mind you, neither independence, good habits, work, communication, nor togetherness will work for you. Having an autocratic family will come to a dead standstill if you don't have the obedience car operating efficiently.

Obedience builds three essential ingredients within a child. It builds trust, respect, and responsibility. Without these ingredients, your child will be a social cripple and will be handicapped for life.

I want to liken this lesson to a race. If you are a VIP, you will never win. I can tell you that before you start. Because, you see, a VIP is a *Very Indolent Parent*, and that kind of parent will never exert the energy and learn the know-how to be able to win. It takes wisdom and a whole lot of energy to be a winner of the obedience race. The little racers with whom you are competing are full of life; they're fast, they're agile, they're cunning, and they're smart. They will out-fox you coming and going if you don't know what you are doing.

I know that as a parent you really would like to have obedience from your children, but do you have? If you don't, do you think

you can get it? This race is hard. It's tough. And to many parents, it's impossible. But, if you think you can win, you can.

If you think you are beaten, you are;
If you think you dare not, you don't.
If you want to win but don't think you can,
It's almost a cinch you won't.

If you think you'll lose, you're lost;
For out in the world we find
Success begins with a fellow's will:
It's all in the state of mind.

If you think you're outclassed, you are;
You've got to think high to rise;
You've got to be sure of yourself before
You can ever win a prize.

Life's battles don't always go
To the stronger and faster man;
But sooner or later the man who wins
Is the man who thinks he can.

—Walter D. Wintle

Go Into Concentrated Training

In previous chapters you were cautioned that training involves getting a child to follow your instructions. We have now reached the point where, in order to proceed with the study, you must learn how to accomplish getting this obedience.

To get obedience from your children, you may have to go into a concentrated training program yourself. You may need to pick out a winner, not a loser, for a coach. Let the winning lady explain to you the rules of the obedience game. And then, follow her instructions.

I want especially to emphasize to be *sure* you pick a *winner*. And what is a winner? Winners are parents who have reared or are rearing obedient children. Their children respect and honor them; they show it in their speech, manners, and actions.

"Boys, Turn the TV OFF"

I have been trying to pick winners for a long time. Claude was an elder in a congregation where my husband once preached. He

and his wife, Debra, had the opportunity to observe a life I have ever known.

One night we drove to a no big den or family room out on the living room. As my husband and I arrived by car, we continued viewing the TV.

We made ourselves comfortable and Dorothy for a moment to the serious business of things that needed to be heard. So, with the TV off and go to bed, I got up and obeyed the backtalk ("Oh, Debra, that attitude involved. I'll be immediately. (Incidentally, even as teenagers.

That is a demonstration from his sons. The first and (3) to the left. Claude had all three.

Those boys are going to higher educations, while accomplishing basketball championships.

Don't Give Ear to

In your training, avoid losers. It is often the disobedient and defiant that tell you "how it's done" talk about you that is strict and make you

and his wife, Dorothy, were winning parents that we had the opportunity to observe. They had three of the finest teenage boys I have ever known.

One night we drove out to their little farm. Their house was small--no big den or family room--and all three of the boys were stretched out on the living room floor deeply engrossed in a TV program. As my husband and I entered the room, all three of them acknowledged our arrival by courteously greeting us. They then settled back down to continue viewing their program.

We made ourselves comfortable and enjoyed visiting with Claude and Dorothy for a few minutes. The time arrived for us to get down to the serious business for which we had made the call. There were things that needed to be discussed that Claude didn't want the boys to hear. So, without further ado, he said to them, "Boys! Shut the TV off and go to your room." Without hesitation, all three promptly got up and obeyed their father. There was absolutely no questioning, backtalk ("Oh, Dad! Can't we just finish this program?"), or nasty attitude involved. They told us good night and went to their room immediately. (Incidentally, these three boys shared one small bedroom, even as teenagers.)

That is a demonstration of a winner at work. Claude had obedience from his sons. True obedience is: (1) immediate, (2) unquestioning, and (3) to the letter--no substitutions, additions, or omissions. Claude had all three of those reactions from his children.

Those boys are grown today. All three are Christians, have attained higher educations, married Christian women, and are making worthwhile accomplishments. One of them was a high school All-American basketball champion for the State of Oklahoma in 1969.

Don't Give Ear to the Losers

In your training program, whatever you do, don't listen to the losers. It is often the case that the individuals who have the most disobedient and disrespectful children are the ones most anxious to tell you "how it's done." They are also the ones who criticize and talk about you the longest and loudest when you are trying to be strict and make your children behave.

If you ever have a woman who is a grandmother shame you for "being so strict with your children," just take a look at her adult children. If they have disordered, unhappy, chaotic lives, pay no mind to her scoldings. She was a loser; and if you can, you want to follow a more successful blueprint than hers.

The reason I caution you about this is that winning mothers have told me that, in their earlier years of disciplining their children, they had to contend with the problem of criticism. Getting obedience from a child is sometimes not a pleasant task. So let me encourage you. Be brave and keep your chin up. Read Proverbs 29:17, and complete your training by making your children follow your teaching.



And, as much as you may love your mother, if she was a loser in getting your obedience, don't adopt her rules for this obedience race with your children. Look to a lady who was a winner and follow her.

Watch Those Authors

Again may I caution you! Don't turn your mind over to the authors who advocate a democratic or laissez-faire method of child training. These authors will make such ridiculous statements as: "You cannot hope to get good results from children through corporal punishment." "Children have to be impressed with something other than yielding to the superior power of an adult." Or, "Children are their parents' equals when it comes to their right and ability to decide things for themselves."

Such theories as these have been taught and advocated for years. And, from my study experience, I have found that the majority of child-related books that line our library and bookstore shelves still advocate these liberalized theories.

Such unique authors as David Wilkerson express the views of the winners when he says:

"Spanking is out of style today. It is considered harmful to the child's development patterns. Spanking is called 'child beating'; scolding is 'brow beating'; old fashioned discipline is called 'parental temper tantrums.' My parents

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had a different name for it - - they called it *woodshed therapy*. I believe it's time for a woodshed revival."*

Any real winner whom I have ever observed would agree with the above statement wholeheartedly. In fact, I believe he would say, "It is *past* time for a woodshed revival."

I Want to Share

I have encouraged you to seek out your own winning parents to observe, and I hope you will do that. You will learn a lot of tips and get some excellent advice from couples who have had their parenting tried and proven. These winners are sometimes hard to find. You may have to look pretty hard. When I give this assignment to the ladies in my classes, they often come back the next week and say, "I can't find a winner." But I encourage them to keep looking. If you look long enough, I believe you will find some.

The one thing I have always tried to be cautious about in choosing winning parents is to be sure the advice I receive does not openly conflict with what God has said. I would encourage you to do the same.

For the rest of this chapter, I should like to share with you what the Bible says about getting obedience, and combine it with what the winners have shared with me. There are ten basic facts I will present, and after that the obedience race is up to you.

1. TO LOVE AND TO DISCIPLINE DON'T CONFLICT

The first fact you need to know before you can win the obedience race with your children is that to love *is* to discipline. A Los Angeles psychologist, in a keynote speech, said: "The greatest social disaster of this century is the belief that abundant love makes discipline unnecessary."¹

In our previous chapter, we learned that the all-important definition of love is "seeking the ultimate good of the loved one." It is for the good of any child to have acceptable behavior and to be able to get

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along in the family, in the neighborhood, and at school. Discipline is the ingredient that teaches a child how best to behave in order to survive in society. A parent goes to the trouble to discipline, then, only if he loves the child.

We have all heard people say, "I love him too much to spank him." An individual who reasons in this way has simply failed to understand the definition of love. God says, "*He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.*" Proverbs 13:24.

To give a child its own way is not a mark of love, but an indication of a VIP. This weakness of character on the part of the parent will in time harm the child.

Opposite Results

Love can produce results that are exactly opposite. It can cause excruciating pain, or it can bring exquisite joy. Suppose a child has an abscess that's producing poison in his system and is threatening his life. The doctor prepares to lance it, which is going to cause terrific pain, but a sentimental nurse grabs his hand and demands, "Don't you dare hurt that poor baby!" Which one loves - - the doctor or the nurse? The answer is the doctor, of course. Even though his treatment resulted in pain, he did what was best for the child.

The pioneer woman who straightened her child's foot also experienced two results of pain and joy that come from genuine love.

2. PUNISHMENT IS NOT ALWAYS DISCIPLINE, BUT INFLECTED DISCIPLINE IS ALWAYS PUNISHMENT*

The second thing an autocratic parent must understand is the fact that there is a difference between pure punishment and true discipline. *Punishment is pain or discomfort inflicted upon one.* Now if pain or discomfort is inflicted upon a child for his welfare and to make him a better and a more acceptable person, it is *discipline*. But if pain is

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inflicted on a child out of spite, anger, hate, or when a parent is in a rage, it is *pure punishment*.

The prisoners of war were punished. They were angrily beaten until they were unconscious. Their fingernails were pulled out by the roots. These acts were done in hatred and were not for their welfare. This was pure punishment and had no resemblance to discipline.

I once knew a Christian couple who consistently punished their children. They were forever slapping and cuffing them around. During one worship service, you would witness them administering not less than a dozen blows to the children's heads. Needless to say, these children were very unruly, disobedient, and so unhappy they cried a great deal of the time.

Because we are human, there may be times that we will, out of anger, punish our children. It may relieve us for the moment and make us feel better, but let's be watchful that we don't allow it to happen very often. If our children are being disobedient, we must make them follow our instructions by inflicting pain upon them with a calm and firm hand and with a loving spirit. Given this way, it will be discipline for the child's sake and not an outlet for our own frustrations.

So again, inflicted discipline is always punishment, but punishment is not always discipline.* Autocratic parents must inflict pain and discomfort to accomplish discipline, but must not administer punishment as a relief for their own frustrations.

3. A CHILD'S JUDGMENT TAKES YEARS TO DEVELOP

The third fact young parents must always keep in mind is that children are children, and it takes months and years of living for their judgments to develop.

Dr. Homan says: "On behalf of children everywhere, I beg of you, don't terrify them with explanations. Just support them with facts." He further says, "Don't force a child to make decisions before he has the facts upon which to decide and the self-confidence to do so."⁶

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The following are two examples of parents' failure to follow this advice:

Example 1

A mother takes her pre-schooler to the closet, opens the door, and says, "What do you want to wear today, sweetheart?" The child begins to study the situation, but doesn't know if it is going to snow or the sun is going to shine. Neither does she have knowledge as to the events of the day. She does not know whether her mother is going to take her to the park to play or to church for worship. So the child chooses - - "I want to wear my long yellow dress today." "Oh, no, honey! I'm going to work in the flower beds this morning. You can't wear that," is the mother's response.

This episode continues and the child tries again. "I want to wear my short red dress then." "Well, darling, it has long sleeves and it would be too hot," Mother reminds. Before long, the child is frustrated and is whining, crying, or may even throw herself on the floor in a rage. *Mother* is the one who has the judgment and the knowledge of the day's expected activities! She should have done the choosing and given the child the facts: "This is what you are wearing today."

Example 2

A couple takes their little one along when they go out for the evening to eat. The child can't read; he has no idea how much money Daddy wants to spend; in fact, he doesn't even know how many pennies make a dime. The family gets seated in the restaurant and is anticipating a good time together when Mother ruins it by asking, "Freddie, what do you want for supper?" Since Freddie can't read, he says, "I want a peanut butter and jelly sandwich." "Oh, honey, they don't have peanut butter and jelly sandwiches here." "I want a hot dog then." "Darling! This is the Chicken Palace and they don't serve hot dogs." By this time, Freddie is frustrated, angry, or sulking, and the meal out is ruined. He tried twice and was a failure. Mother had the knowledge and judgment. She knew what he liked and about how much he would eat. She should have made the decision and given Freddie the facts: "This is what you are having for supper."

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Parents who deal with their children in the ways given in the above examples will usually have to contend with some terrible scenes. I have seen children tear through the house screaming, wallow on the bed in a fit, and even throw themselves under the table in the restaurant.

All of those incidents could have been avoided if the parents had furnished the child with facts. That is why God gave children parents. It takes years for children's judgment to mature. (Now, it's true that, as they become more responsible, they should be granted privileges to make judgments. Dr. Ginott's "Voice and Choice" activity is an excellent way to start a child in learning to make judgments.²⁶ We will cover that in Chapter Nine.)

A child's reasoning goes this way - - Daddy could buy all of the bubble gum in the store, but he doesn't. If I had all of his money, I would. Grownups just sit around and talk. They never play tag or climb trees. My parents always walk to the car. I like to run. Mamma doesn't take naps, and I do.*

As autocratic parents, we must remember to spare our children unnecessary anxiety, tension, worry, and anger by supporting them with facts until they are old enough to make sound judgments on their own.

4. YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO LEARN RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

This fourth fact you need to know will be a relief for you.

There is one, just one, basic lesson you will need to teach your children. And that is - - respect for authority. No matter what else you want your children to learn, they must learn this lesson first.⁶ If they learn respect for authority, it will be the basis on which all of the hundreds and thousands of other lessons will fall into place. Dr. Homan says, "Whatever the age of your child, if he has not learned this lesson, stop all other teaching and concentrate upon it."⁶

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You may ask, "Where do I start teaching authority? There are the school authorities, police authorities, and many different authorities." That brings us to the fifth fact you need to know.

5. YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST AUTHORITY

Do you remember how I defined an autocratic home in the introduction? An autocratic family is one in which the parents have the authority.

Now, you are not your child's first authority unless you have arranged your life to stay at home and work with him. A child who has to combine Daddy and Mother's orders with those of three or four ladies at the day nursery, and who is handled in still different ways by the baby sitters three nights a week, will be a confused child. He will not know what he can or can't do, nor what or what not to expect. To build a one-to-one relationship and teach respect for a united authority is a major reason for mothers to stay home.

The basic purpose in God's using parents to be a child's first authority is not to give the parents an avenue for boosting their ego and exercising their power, but is, rather, to build a basis for the child's attitude toward all other people. The respect your child has for his first authority will be what he will transfer over when he is older and meets with the teacher at school, the Bible class teacher, the policeman on the corner, the store manager, the baseball coach, the cub scout leader, and most of all, God and Christ. He will follow others' instructions the way he learned to follow yours.*

What Is an Authority?

It's easy for me to give you the three steps in being an authority. Here they are:

*The author is indebted for this insight to Dr. James Dobson in his *Dare To Discipline*.¹

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AN AUTHORITY

- Step 1. Knows the subject better than the person he's addressing.
- Step 2. Verbally gives his facts. (*One time*, never more than twice, unless he's asked.)
- Step 3. He then follows his facts with proof.

Let me give you some examples of how easily this works for parents.

Example 1

You are the authority. It is time for you to put your two-year-old to bed for his nap.

- Step 1. You know the subject better than your two-year-old.

It is one o'clock, and babies need extra rest.

- Step 2. You verbally give the fact once - -

"Tammy, come to Mother. It's time for bed now."

- Step 3. You follow your fact with proof.

You take Tammy and tuck her in bed.

Example 2

You are the authority. It is a beautiful day and you want your five and seven-year-olds to play in the back yard.

- Step 1. You know your subject.

You need to wax the floors, and children need fresh air and sunshine.

- Step 2. Verbally give the fact one time.

"Children, I want you to go outside and play in the back yard. You may come in when I call."

- Step 3. Follow the fact with proof.

You take them or make sure they go immediately to the back yard.

Example 3

This is fun. Let's do one more. You are the authority. Eighteen-month-old Richard is climbing on the chair.

Step 1. You know more about the subject.

The chair is dangerous. He could get a splinter, or it might fall over on him.

Step 2. One time you give the fact.

"No, Richard! Come away from the chair."

Step 3. Follow the fact with proof.

Help Richard down, and steer him away from the chair.

Look What These Children Have Learned

Now, look what these children have learned. Their mother spoke and they didn't have to wonder whether or not she knew her subject. She knew what she was talking about, because she furnished immediate proof. The children will *trust* her next time and will show their *respect* by following her spoken word. In time, they will learn *responsibility* because they were taught to yield consistent obedience to a trusted parent.

Consistency

Of course, an authority must always be consistent with her knowledge, word, and proof. No authority would tell Jim he is not allowed to throw balls in the house, whistle at the table, or slide down the banister, on Monday, and then overlook it on Tuesday. If it is a parent's fact that she doesn't want balls thrown in the house, whistling during the meal, or reckless behavior on the stairs, that is a fact that is unchanging. Moods, good days, bad weather, sickness, headaches, grandmother's visit, or no other circumstance will change the facts.

An authority, therefore, will teach consistent facts Sunday through Saturday. And remember, Daddy and Mother are standing together, agreed on what these facts are and in their willingness to back them up with proof.

Be Sure You Know Your Subject

An authority is not an authority if his student knows the subject better than he does. Many times parents get into difficulty when they think they know the facts and don't.

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It is often the case that children have a better command of some subjects than their parents. Take for instance, a newborn baby. He knows when he is hungry and when he isn't. If you try to force a nipple into a baby's mouth when he isn't hungry, he will spit it out. Sometimes a mother will put a plate full of food before her child and give the fact that he has to eat it all. The fact may be that the child's stomach simply cannot handle the food.

It is ridiculous and out of the realm of reason to give a fact with which a child is mentally or physically unable to cope. *Before you ever give facts, be sure you have studied the subject and know it better than your child, and can without a doubt follow up with unquestionable proof if called upon to do so.*

What Did I Hear You Say?

Now, isn't it easy to be an authority? Just look what you have when you follow these three simple steps of knowing your subject, giving the facts once, and reinforcing them with proof. Your child is happy. Your home is peaceful, and everything is wonderful.

Or did I hear you say, "Oh, yow! My two-year-old wouldn't stay in bed, and my little Richard would head right back to that chair." Did I hear you say that? Well, in that case, I had better teach you another fact of this game of obedience.

6. TO DISCIPLINE YOU NEED A ROD

If Tammy won't stay in bed and Richard refuses to leave the chair alone, you will have to reinforce that your facts are true by furnishing further proof. You must inflict discipline upon Tammy and Richard and *make them* stay in bed and away from the chair.

In order to make a child obey your spoken word, you will need a rod.

Who Says to Use a Rod?

How do I know you should use a rod? Well, the winners say so; but most importantly, God says so. I want you to read the following scriptures carefully. Listen to what our Creator says about obedience and using the rod:

Proverbs 13:24 - "He that spareth his *rod* hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

Proverbs 22:15 - "Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the *rod* of correction shall drive it far from him."

Proverbs 23:13 - "Withhold not correction from the child; -14 for if thou beatest him with the *rod*, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the *rod*, and shalt deliver his soul from hell."

Proverbs 29:15 - "The *rod* and reproof give wisdom: but a & 17 child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." "Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul."

What Is a Rod?

Notice that God specifically says to use a *rod* on a child. And what is a rod? According to Webster's dictionary, a rod is "a straight slender stick growing on or cut from a tree or a bush." I like the word *switch* because it goes along well with our train illustration. "A good father or mother who finds his son or daughter on the wrong track will provide switching facilities."

Two passages in the Bible specify that rods come from the branches of a tree: Genesis 30:37 - "*And Jacob took him rods of green poplar, and of the hazel and chestnut tree.*" Numbers 17:8 - "*And, behold, the rod of Aaron . . . was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.*"

Oh, But Lord

"Oh, but Lord! You surely don't mean I am supposed to use a switch from a tree on my child. I love him too much to hurt him."

Wait a minute! What did Proverbs 13:24 say? "*He that spareth his rod hateth his son.*"

"Well, just how do I administer this? Just how severe should I get?" Let's read it again. "*If thou beatest him . . .*" Proverbs 23:13.

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"Well, Lord, I would just feel so mean that I couldn't live with myself." No! Let's see what it will do for you. "*Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.*" Proverbs 29:17.

Now, if two-year-old Tammy and eighteen-month-old Richard will not stay in bed and away from the chair, how do you make them obey? By using a little rod, of course.

Here is another principle to remember: "*The rod is the first response and not the last resort.*"* By knowing this principle, you will know never to tell your child, "You just wait until your Daddy gets home." There should be no waiting. If your child is not minding your spoken facts, then you are the one to respond with the rod immediately.

Sometimes when you give your child a fact, he will not obey immediately and will continue to procrastinate. When he sees you coming with the rod in your hand, however, he will hasten to do what you told him to do. What is a mother to do when this happens? If you go to the trouble to get a rod, you must go ahead and use it. If you don't, your child will develop this little daring act into a game of tag every time you tell him to do something, and you will be the one who is always "it."

Three Good Reasons

When I teach young mothers God's rule of using a rod for disciplining, I try to make sure they understand that that is exactly what He meant. Belts, ropes, ping-pong paddles, fly swatters, wooden spoons, rulers, spatulas, or your hand are no substitutes for God's rod. (Hands are to be used for loving, one mother suggested.)

I think there are at least three good reasons why God specified using a rod.

(1) *Discipline, rather than pure punishment, will come nearer to being rendered.* Most people have to contend with some degree of temper. When our children defy us, it can at times be very upsetting.

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However, by following God's plan, we have time to calm our spirits. Making a trip out into the yard and fresh air to get a rod from the tree will furnish us with this opportunity. We will come nearer to truly disciplining, rather than striking, and administering pure punishment, when we return.

(2) *Permanent damage will not be inflicted.* When a rod is used for discipline, it is very flexible and pliable. There would be no way to cause internal damage to the child. We noticed in Proverbs 23:13 and 14 that God said if you beat a child with a rod, he wouldn't die. Even though that passage basically means that discipline will protect his spiritual welfare and can even save him from meeting with physical disasters, it also infers that it would be impossible to take his life by using a rod as your instrument for correction.

Now, there is no mistaking that, if a rod is applied properly, there will be welts, stripes, and possibly even bruises on the flesh. But, again, God gives a scripture of comfort about that, too. "*The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts . . .*" Proverbs 20:30. God further encourages, "*Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.*" Proverbs 19:18.

(3) *The pain is intense enough that a child will not want it repeated.* I have heard countless numbers of parents say, "Well, we tried spanking, but it just didn't work for us." When a rod is properly administered, a parent will not have to worry about its not working. A child chastened with a rod will make haste to do as he has been directed. The sting is so unbearable that he will not want it repeated.

My Boys Laughed at Me

I once taught this principle of using a rod to a group of young mothers and thought I had gotten the lesson over without a flaw. But the next week we came together, one young mother was very disturbed about her experience.

She had set out to teach her boys respect for her authority. She, like most mothers, had known her subject, but couldn't get past verbally giving her facts. That week she explained to her boys

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ages five and seven that she had been wrong in yelling and nagging them about things. "From now on, there is going to be a change. I am going to tell you only one time; and if you don't mind me, I will have to discipline you."

Of course, children who have been scolded and nagged for five to seven years have acquired the habit of deafness. Their mother's facts are sort of like the cuckoo clock - - they simply don't hear her coo's.

Trying to break the deaf habit was bad enough for her, but she made another terrible mistake. When she attempted to discipline with her rod, it simply didn't work. She told us in class, "My boys stood there and laughed at me."

This really disturbed me. I couldn't imagine children being that tough. So I began to question her about the details. "How big a rod did you use?" "What kind of tree was it?" "How much force did you use?" "How many times did you strike them?" She had answered everything just right until I asked her, "Did you use the rod on the bare skin?" She replied, "No, I didn't. They had their levis on."

I explained to her that this next week, if she had to inflict discipline, she should pull their levis down, and I would guarantee her that they wouldn't laugh.

The next week, her report was all positive. Her boys had not laughed a single time, and their hearing was rapidly improving.

7. START TEACHING OBEDIENCE EARLY

How early should I start teaching obedience and respect for my authority? This is a question most young parents ask, and I remember when I used to wonder about the same thing. Before I ever had experience with an infant, I remember asking winners, "At what age do you start inflicting discipline?" How well I remember my shock when they said, "You should begin when a child is five to six months old." "Why should you need to discipline a baby that little?" I asked. These winning mothers assured me that once I had a baby I would soon learn their cries. Sometimes their cries are legitimate - - they are wet, hungry, sleepy, frightened, or in pain. At other times, they are only angry and will let their tempers show by stiffening,

turning red in the face, and screaming with a loud cry. It is during these little displays of frustration that the winners say you must give a sudden little shake and one or two firm swats. If he does not lie still for diapering, this is another time to inflict discipline to awaken a baby this age to your displeasure.

NO

The first spoken fact you teach your baby to obey is the one simple word, "No!" The day he sets out on all fours, making his way throughout the house to explore the big wide world, is the day you will have to go out and get a teeny tiny rod from the tree. This usually occurs when he is around six or seven months old.

Teach him "no" to objects that are dangerous. An article very enticing to a crawler is an electric cord. He seems to be discontent until he puts it in his mouth and has a bite. The day your baby starts crawling, you must begin to exercise environmental control. Go throughout the house and put up or cover up anything that could be dangerous. But, even after you have done that, there will always be times you must run the sweeper, sew on a patch, or whip out a fast letter on the typewriter. The electric cord will have to be exposed for a short while.

When your baby goes to grab the cord, shake your head, say "no," and take the cord away from him. If he insists he is going to have it in spite of your warning, swat him on the leg two or three times. Repeat your fact, "no," and take the cord away. Repeat this again and again until he is willing to crawl away and leave it alone. It will not take many little sessions like this for him to learn immediate response to your "No!"

Come To Mother

One of a toddler's first lessons to learn is, "Come to Mother." This one lesson could save his life and will save you thousands of steps over the years. You start by motioning with your hand and saying, "Come to Mother." Approach your baby with your hand extended, showing him what you mean, and draw him to you.

When the toddler smiles, "Mother," get discipline him next day as part of the

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This eight is a *must*! accomplished Susannah outstanding She reared the great philosophy:

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When the time comes (and it does with every child) that your toddler smiles and runs the opposite way when you say, "Come to Mother," get your rod and discipline him well. Repeat your fact, and discipline him until he willingly comes to you. If need be, do it the next day and the next. Soon your toddler will come to you from any part of the house or yard when you say, "Bobby, come to Mother."

8. CONQUER YOUR CHILD'S WILL AND DO IT EARLY

This eighth fact of conquering your child's will and doing it early is a *must* for every new mother to know. The sooner you get this accomplished, the more delightful your children will be.

Susannah Wesley has been recorded in history as one of the most outstanding women at child rearing. She was a real obedience winner. She reared nineteen children, two of whom were John and Charles, the great religious leaders of their time. Listen to Mrs. Wesley's philosophy:

"When turned a year old (and some before), my children were taught to fear the rod and to cry softly. I insist upon conquering the will of children early. In order to form the minds of children, the first thing to be done is to conquer their wills and bring them to an obedient temper."²⁷

What she means by conquering the will is this. At some point, your child is going to grow very headstrong and match his will against yours. This is a time when he wants his way badly enough that he is willing to venture out and see if you and your word are genuine or counterfeit. He is also willing to undergo additional pain to see if he can be stronger than you. Your crawler or toddler will already have gotten a fair idea of whether or not you have a purpose to your instructions.

I heard a permissive mother say one time, "I wouldn't want to kill my child's will." But notice, Susannah did not say to kill the will. She said to conquer the will. It can be explained this way: when you have conquered your child's will, he will readily and willingly submit to your desire when it conflicts with his own.

Thank You, God, for a Mother Made of Pure Gold

My mother reared six children, and I have heard her say many times, "There is a conquering time in the life of every child." She especially remembers the day she conquered me.

I was between two and three years old, and our family was seated at the table for lunch. I accidentally or purposely (the latter probably) dropped a piece of bread on the floor. My mother knew her subject and stated her fact. She said, "You get down and pick the bread up." I just looked at her. Since I was so young, she repeated her fact again to be sure I understood. I looked at the bread and then at her, but I still refused to budge.

After beholding my defiant attitude and unwillingness to obey, she promptly removed me from the table and away from the family. She took me to the bedroom and disciplined me soundly.

We came back to the table; she put me in my chair and again stated her fact, "Now, you get down and pick the bread up." Through my tears, I still stubbornly refused to obey.

She removed me from the family table once again and administered another dose of firm discipline. She brought me back to the table, put me on my chair and again said, "Now, you get down and pick the bread up." I still would not do it. In my defiance, I looked at the bread and back at her and continued my challenge to her authority.

The majority of mothers would have thrown in the towel, given up, and said, "This isn't working. I will have to try something else." But I have thanked the Lord many times that I had a mother made of pure gold. She wasn't about to allow her baby to dictate the facts to her.

So she made a third, fourth, and possibly (she doesn't remember for sure) a fifth trip to the bedroom and disciplined me. As she recounts the occasion, it was such a nerve-wracking experience for her that she is surprised that I have no remembrance of it.

Finally, she conquered my will when she brought me back to the table, told me to pick the bread up, and I willingly crawled down from my chair, picked it up and placed it in her hands. She said from that moment she never had trouble getting me to mind her.

Of course, I have many reminders. I have my business and

I have always won other winners. Neither is it a business. I have won by my sacrificial love passeth all and all six of my face to face, hands in Y gold, she can a reunion w

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Of course, through the years, I, like any child, needed temporary reminders. But I knew when my mother said something, she meant business and there was no fooling around about it.

I have always honored and adored my mother. Like hundreds of other winning mothers, she doesn't have a M.A. or Ph.D. degree. Neither is her house garnished with trophies and souvenirs that she has won by doing her "own thing." But, because she exercised a sacrificial love, she in her golden years of life has a peace that passeth all understanding. She is leaving her footprints in the sand, and all six of her children call her blessed. Once she meets her Maker face to face, she can truthfully say, "Lord, I have put all my children's hands in Yours." And, because she was a mother made of genuine gold, she can rest in peace that she did her part and can hope for a reunion with her family in her heavenly home.

Would You Believe, Eighteen Months?

To illustrate how young this time for conquering can occur, one of our children was eighteen months old. I had just bathed him, and our bath time was always a playful and loving time. He had been walking for several months; so after we finished his bath, I put him down from the dressing counter to roam while I rinsed out a dirty diaper. Instead of roaming, he decided to open the cabinet doors and investigate the items under the sink. Our bathroom and his dressing area were in our basement; so I was soon going to be ready to take him upstairs to the main floor. When he started getting out sponges, towels, and bars of soap, I told him, "Put them back and shut the door."

He wasn't talking much at this age, but he understood what I meant. He hesitated momentarily, but continued with his fascinating project. I told him a second time, but he paid no heed. By that time, I was finished with the diaper and was ready to go. After his refusal to follow my spoken fact, I lowered his little wooly pajamas, disciplined one side of his leg firmly, and repeated, "Put them back and shut the door." He cried like his heart was broken, but made no move to do as he was told.

I disciplined him again, and the second time he really cried. This time, however, he braced his back firm and tall and shook his head very vehemently - - NO. The third time around, I worked on his other little leg, since the one had already had a thorough going over. Again, he was expressing his extreme discomfort, but continued in his braced position and shaking his head back and forth - - NO. It took four sessions of very sound discipline to conquer his will. Finally, he got down, hurriedly put everything back in the cabinet, and shut the door.

We then went upstairs, got his bottle and rocked. As he sucked his bottle, I held him close and told him that "Mommy loves you, but you must mind me." He sniffled a while and was soon sound asleep.

9. SPANKING IS AN EVENT

If you have missed this point, I want to bring it out one last time. The ninth fact that must be impressed about getting obedience is that spanking is an event, and these events will oftentimes have to occur through the teenage years.

There was once a young mother who was ironing, and her little one kept getting under her feet. She knew her subject - - that he was neither sleepy, hungry, or sick, but was simply using this as a means of occupying his time. She would swat at him once in a while and nag him to leave her alone, but he wouldn't mind.

Grandpa was sitting in his rocking chair nearby, reading the paper. He had indirectly been watching the ordeal. Pretty soon he lowered his glasses and said, "Sandra, a spanking is an event. You are simply abusing that child." The next time her child didn't mind, she took him to the bedroom and they had an event.*

Steps to an Event

The next time your child isn't following your spoken fact, go have an event. To inflict discipline, here are the seven steps you will need to follow:

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(1) *Get a rod.* When you go to the tree, choose a rod that is fitting to the age and size of your child. A fresh one is nice and limber and is far more effective than one that is old and brittle. When your children get older, on occasion make them go get their own rod. If you have no trees in your yard, collect rods ahead of time and store them in your freezer. They will stay fresh and flexible for months.

(2) *Take the child to a private place.* A child's self-esteem is important and should be treated with respect. His disobedience is a matter between the two of you, and the discipline should not be a performance for neighbors and friends to watch. Of course, when your crawler and toddler needs discipline, it must be administered on the spot; he may not make the connection if you take time to remove him from the setting.

(3) *Express disapproval of the action.* Say, "I love you too much to allow this kind of behavior. This is to help you remember not to let it happen again."

(4) *Administer the rod thoroughly on the bottom and legs.* Always remember that God says, "to spare not for his crying." The number of times you strike with the rod will be partially determined by the child's age, attitude, and offense. A good rule of thumb is to apply no less than a half dozen impressions at each session.

I want to include something at this point. *Never* allow the older children to discipline the younger ones. It should be a hard and fast fact that that will never be allowed. All of your children are learning respect for the same authority - - yours. They are not an authority to one another.

(5) *Take the child back to finish your spoken word.* Never drop the subject or the switch until your child yields to your spoken word. If it takes four, five, or more of these switching sessions, the impressions will add up into the dozens, but you stick with it until your child yields his will to your spoken word and is willing to go back and finish what you told him to do in the first place. If you don't give up, he will have to give in.

(6) *After sufficient time has elapsed and your child has a yielding spirit, take him into your arms and communicate your love.* Remember, in Chapter Six it was mentioned that you don't give sympathy or take your child's side when your husband disciplines.

Also, after you have disciplined the child yourself, you must let his human nature go to work. Taking a child in your arms and giving him immediate sympathy leaves him with the idea that you feel you were in the wrong instead of him.

Make the child be the one who warms up to you and once again is received into the good graces of you and your husband. You go on about your work. If it takes him half a day to get sociable and come around, give him the time. Once you see that his spirit is repentant, take him into your arms and communicate your love.

The question has also been asked, "Should you allow the children to comfort each other after discipline has been administered?" The answer is "No!" Children giving immediate love and affection to each other after receiving discipline will especially become a problem when there is a baby in the family. Older children can hardly stand to see their baby brother or sister get a spanking. As soon as Mother puts the rod down, their first inclination is to run and pick up the toddler and express their love and approval. This must not be allowed. The older children must be told they will receive discipline themselves if they make that mistake.

(7) *Forgive* (that means forget and bring up no more) *the transgression and go on with living.*

What an Event Is Not

Let me emphasize once more that hitting or slapping at a child on the head or upper portions of his body is not having an event. It isn't discipline at all. It would be classified as pure punishment. It produces, not obedience, but disrespect for your authority. This kind of treatment will anger a child and will often cause him to strike you back.

If you are in the habit of banging and swinging sudden and forceful blows with your hand at your children, tie your hands behind you. All of you will be better off.

There are multitudes of adults who are deaf or have had their hearing impaired because their parents struck them on the head when they were children. I have seen mothers slap their children in the

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Sound advice for any young couple is *NEVER* to strike your children anywhere on the head or upper portion of the body. *ALWAYS* discipline with a rod on the bottom or legs.

I must add that, even though we should not slap or hit at our children, sometimes a firm hand swat of caution on the bottom and a whisper in the ear are very much in order. If you are in worship, a public assembly, or in the store shopping, and your child is unimpressed with the importance of quietness and good manners, that is often all it will take to remind him what is coming if he doesn't quiet down. If that doesn't bring him to obedience, then you will have to postpone your "event" until you get home or exit to a private place.

10. THE SWITCH ALSO SWEETENS SOUR ATTITUDES

If you have never taught your children respect for your authority and they are ten or twelve years old, an autocratic home is really going to be a drastic change. But you go through the same steps of being an authority for a twelve-year-old as you do for a two-year-old.

One of my former students took TUAC when her youngest child was eleven years old. She told me that in order to prepare her children, she explained to them ahead of time the change she was going to make. She told them about the class she was taking and confessed that she had been wrong about yelling until she got angry at them. She promised them she was going to make a change, and she did.

She started giving her facts once and following through with proof. The children adjusted. One night they had guests for supper. When it came time for her eleven-year-old to go to bed, she told her once and she obeyed. The company was impressed and made the comment, "You told her only one time and she obeyed you."

With any age child, and older ones especially, you may have to watch the attitude. They may yield in body to your requests but express sarcasm and disrespect with a nasty attitude. They may slouch

around, pout, slam doors, kick the cat, go into seclusion for an excessive amount of time, or who knows what.

Don't put up with a defiant attitude. There is nothing that will sweeten a sour attitude any faster than a switch. Use it the same as you do when your child refuses to obey a physical request. Discipline him again and again until his attitude is pleasant and his temperament is acceptable.

A Final Word About Excessive Crying

I should like to say one last word about excessive crying. Sometimes, after a child has been disciplined and didn't get his way, he will cry legitimately for a long time and then go into a forced cry. This, too, is an indication of an unsubmitive heart. This insincere cry is just an avenue for expressing frustration and trying to get your sympathy. If it is allowed to continue, the child will develop a more and more unpleasant disposition. After you have disciplined, the disobedience is corrected, and the sincere cry is concluded, don't allow prolonged crying. Simply state, "Now, you HUSH that crying right now, or I will give you something more to cry about." And if he doesn't obey you promptly, discipline him again.

If you will not allow bad attitudes to develop in your child zero-to-twelve, hopefully it will make the adolescent years much more pleasant.

The problem of unnecessary and excessive crying can begin very early. I once had an older mother in a TUAC class share some very helpful advice that a doctor of years ago had given her. She said she often observed and felt sorry for new mothers who were constantly worn out from being up half the night with a crying baby.

She said when she and her husband had their first child, she had the same experience. By the time their little girl was a few weeks old, she would feed her and always be sure she was warm and dry, but as soon as she put her in bed and turned out the lights, the baby would cry and cry. Being a new mother, she was so fearful that something was wrong. But as soon as she would come and turn the light back on and take up her baby, she would get quiet and be just fine.

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She told her doctor about this strange behavior. He told her the next time it happened for her to be sure to check out her facts. Make certain the baby is not hurting, is fed, dry and warm, and after that, put her in bed and let her cry it out. *Do not go get her!*

The first night of letting their baby cry it out, she said her husband couldn't stand it - - he had to leave the house; but she was able to plug her ears. Their baby cried for forty-five minutes.

The next night was a repeat performance, but the crying lasted only about thirty minutes. The third night their tiny newborn still hadn't given up, but she cried approximately twenty minutes. By the fourth night the crying spell was down to about ten minutes, and by the fifth night she had quit crying altogether. From that day forth, they were able to put their baby to bed and turn out the light in peace.

Her plea was for every young mother to heed that advice to save herself from many sleepless nights and from developing a disagreeable and fretful baby.

Troubles With Junior

Junior bit the meter man;

Junior kicked the cook.

Junior's anti-social now - -

(according to the book)

Junior smashed the clock and lamp,

Junior hacked the tree.

(Destructive trends are treated

In chapters two and three!)

Junior threw the milk at Mom.

Junior screamed for more.

(Notes on self-assertiveness

Are found in chapter four.)

Junior tossed his shoes and socks

Out into the rain.

(Negation, that, and normal - -

Disregard the same.)

Junior set Dad's shirt afire,

Salted Grandpop's tea;

(That's to gain attention.
See page 163).

Grandpop seized a rod,
Yanked Junior across his knee!
(Grandpop hasn't read a book
Since 1893.)

--Author Unknown

ASSIGNMENT

1. Search for a winning mother this week. Ask her some of the principles she followed in rearing her children. If you have a particular problem, ask her advice.
2. Open your Bible to the book of Proverbs. Take a pen and underline the following scriptures:
Proverbs 13:24
" 19:18
" 20:11
" 22:15
" 23:13 - 14
" 29:15 and 17
3. Start teaching your children respect for your authority immediately. If they are older, explain to them the change that you are going to make, and be consistent in making it.
4. Make a fancy bookmark for your Bible: write the words, "Spanking Is an Event," and write the seven steps to remember.