Without question, Sherry and I have found parenting to be one of the most rewarding, yet challenging aspects of our almost 40-year marriage. Just like many of you, we made a lot of mistakes as parents, but by God’s grace we graduated our three kids from home. We have learned an amazing phenomenon; they keep coming back, but the best part of the whole deal is that they come back with these wonderful gifts from God called “grandbabies.”

David Jeremiah:
“Contrary to popular theories, children who have not been properly disciplined by their parents are often the most unhappy. Setting a child free to be and do however he wants is to sentence him to confusion. Only loving, parental discipline can place a child’s feet on the right path.”

Takeaway for Parents:
Every parent must remember that Proverbs is not a book of airtight promises; no, it is a book of wisdom from the wisdom section of the Old Testament. The Bible never says that if we pour our heart into our children, they will grow up to love God and be great missionaries in Europe. The Bible doesn’t even promise that our children will be saved; the Bible simply says that if you desire to give your children every advantage and build into their DNA godly principles and values as they grow up in your house, then Proverbs and the entire Bible is the route to choose.

Takeaway for Children:
Please remember that you are as capable of breaking your parents’ heart at age five as you are at age 55.

Parents are called to do two major things as they raise their children:

1. Parents are to disciple their children
2. Parents are to discipline their children

I. Parents are tasked by God to disciple their children

Proverbs sets forth sections and summary statements for parents to disciple their children:

- Proverbs 1  Disciple them for peer pressure
- Proverbs 2  Disciple them in wise counsel
- Proverbs 3  Disciple them to trust in God
- Proverbs 4  Disciple them to guard their heart
- Proverbs 5  Disciple them to proper speech
- Proverbs 6  Disciple them to accept parental guidance
- Proverbs 7  Disciple them for sexual purity

II. Parents are tasked by God to discipline their children

A fact that all American parents must face:
Discipline has all but gone away in our culture. It is just not cool for a parent to be a parent that disciplines in today’s postmodern world. If you doubt that just take a Delta flight with me to Argentina, South Africa, Spain, Canada, Atlanta, or just go to the local grocery store. Because of my travel schedule I am exposed to many children that are basically from hell.

A. Discipline properly applied is still proper in today’s world for every child

Proverbs 29:17 (NKJV) Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.
B. Discipline properly applied still proves that parents love their children

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV) He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

James Dobson:
“Discipline is not something we do to our children, but something we do for our children.”

C. Discipline pitifully ignored still proves to be unsuccessful

Proverbs 19:18 (NKJV) Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.

Pastor Tim’s Humble Advice:
Most so-called childrearing experts, both Christian and secular, believe that the basic values and behavior systems are set in children by their fourth birthday. Some even say by their third. The age in which we are to begin disciplining our children is not a chronological one. Rather it is when you start seeing the seeds of willful defiance (otherwise known as sin) begin to germinate in their hearts. All humans are born in a state of rebellion against God, inherited from their forefather Adam. Defiance must be confronted early, or it will blossom into full-fledged rebellion sooner than you can blink. As bad as “temper tantrums” look at two, they look worse at ten.

D. Discipline properly engaged still purges sinful conduct from children’s lives

Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Pastor Tim’s Humble Advice:
A parent’s job when it comes to discipline is to make sure the child knows that wrong behavior brings negative consequences. Parents must at all costs make their children realize that “disrespectful” behavior will always and forever draw a swift and painful feeling on their buttocks.

Psalm 119:71-72 (TLB) The punishment you gave me was the best thing that could have happened to me, for it taught me to pay attention to your laws. They are more valuable to me than millions in silver and gold!

E. Discipline properly given has always been intended to help the child and never be used as an avenue of release for the parent’s anger

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV) And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Takeaway:
I desire to be clear; no Christian parent should ever do anything under any circumstances in the name of biblical discipline to emotionally or physically abuse a child. Biblical correction is never abusive in nature but is always corrective in nature. God has provided a much-padded place on the anatomy called the buttocks for all corrective measures.

F. Discipline properly appropriated serves to prepare a child for their single greatest decision in life – Jesus Christ.

Proverbs 23:13 (TLB) Don’t fail to correct your children; discipline won’t hurt them! They won’t die if you use a stick on them! Punishment will keep them out of hell.

Takeaway:
When a child is made to confront their own sins of disobedience or defiance, he learns that there are standards in life, which must be obeyed. But if a child has been allowed to live with the idea that sin and standards do not apply to him or her, they will feel the same way about God’s standards and be far less likely to sense the need for forgiveness and salvation, as they grow older.