

**The Question:** What's it take to raise kids who love God and love you when they're grown?

**The Answer:** Ephesians 6:4 – 4

**Key Words:**

1. "don't provoke" = overcorrect, be harsh, fault finding, perfectionist
2. "bring up" = nurture, rear, tenderly develop in the sphere of character and principles
3. "discipline" = nurture (KJV), chastise (RV), training (2 Tim. 3:16)
  - *It's what is done to the child.*
4. "instruction" = warn, admonish, correct, reprove, implore
  - *It's what is said to the child.*

**Summary:** We are to parent with LOVE and LIMITS

**Secular research's affirmation\* – 4 kinds of parents:**

1. **Permissive** = High love, low discipline
2. **Neglectful** = Low love, low discipline
3. **Authoritarian** = Low love, high discipline
4. **Authoritative** = High love, high discipline

\*Reuben Hill Minnesota Report

**God's prescription for child development:**

<sup>4</sup>*In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.*

<sup>5</sup>*And you have forgotten that word of encouragement that addresses you as sons: "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you,*

<sup>6</sup>*because the Lord disciplines those He loves, and He punishes everyone He accepts as a son."*

<sup>7</sup>*Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?*

<sup>8</sup>*If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are illegitimate children and not true sons.*

<sup>9</sup>*Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our spirits and live!*

<sup>10</sup>*Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.*

<sup>11</sup>*No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.*

Hebrews 12:4-11 (NIV)

**Summary:** Discipline is teaching **obedience** to God and His Word through **consistent consequences** (actions) and **clear instructions** (words) in an atmosphere of **love**.

- The **necessity** of discipline = To deter \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 12:4
- The **means** of discipline = Through \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 12:5
- The **motive** in discipline = To express \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 12:6-9
- The **goal** of discipline = To teach \_\_\_\_\_ Hebrews 12:9
- The **result** of discipline = Short term \_\_\_\_\_ and long term \_\_\_\_\_  
Hebrews 12:10-11

**How to parent with love and limits:**

**Actions = Consistent Consequences**

Proverbs 13:24; 22:15

- Small Children
  
- Preteens
  
- Teens

**Words = Clear instructions**

Proverbs 1:8; 2:1-2; 3:1; 7:1-2

- Small Children
  
- Preteens
  
- Teens

**Punishment**

**Discipline**

	<b>Punishment</b>	<b>Discipline</b>
<b>Purpose</b>	To inflict penalty for an offense	To train for correction and maturity
<b>Focus</b>	Past misdeeds	Future correct acts
<b>Attitude</b>	Hostility and frustration on the part of the parent	Love and concern on the part of the parent
<b>Resulting emotion in the child</b>	Fear and guilt	Security

For further teaching on child discipline, see *Effective Parenting in a Defective World* by Chip Ingram

**Practical tips for balanced parenting:**

1. Have a few, clear \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_.
2. Develop written \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Negotiate \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Be \_\_\_\_\_!
5. The older they get, the \_\_\_\_\_ the rules.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ them to be on their own.

➤ **Develop A Game-Plan**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Discussion Questions:**

1. How would you classify your parenting style or tendency compared to the case study? Discuss your answer.
2. What is the difference between **discipline** and **punishment**?
3. What are your top two disciplinary problems with your children? What means of action/consequences or instruction would help your child learn obedience?
4. What **specific step** do you need to take to align your parenting with God's pattern to bring out the best in your child?

Resources: *Parenting with Love and Logic* by Kevin Lema  
*Dare to Discipline* by James Dobson