

THE INSTRUCTION OF A FATHER
Heb. 12:6-11

INTRODUCTION

The state of the American culture stands as a testament to the importance of the father in the nuclear family. In spite of what the cynics may say, a father provides many things to a family. He provides financial stability; encouragement; exhortation and direction. He also provides instruction and chastening; the latter two essential elements in the development of men. The American culture has worked hard to undermine these qualities in the American father and has, consequently, done much damage to the family. Today, on this Father's day, we'll examine the importance of instruction and chastening in fatherhood.

- I. BOTH THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS PLACE AN EMPHASIS UPON THE FATHER PROVIDING INSTRUCTION TO HIS CHILDREN.
 - A. Instruction is the Hebrew word moo-sawr'.
 1. "Reproof, warning; restraint; discipline; rebuke." -- Strong's lexicon
 2. "Chastening, correction" -- Brown, Driver & Brings.
 - B. Instruction is not always desired by men.
 1. Fools hate instruction. Prov. 15:5
 - a) "Fools" is the Hebrew word eveel which is used in Scripture of "**one who is quarrelsome, licentious; one who mocks when guilty.**" -- Brown, Driver and Briggs lexicon
 - b) His ways are right in his own eyes. Prov. 12:15
 - c) He has contempt for wisdom and instruction. Prov. 1:7
 2. Wicked men hate instruction. Prov. 5:22-23
 - a) "Wicked" is rasha is "**one who is morally wrong; concretely a bad person; ungodly.**" -- Strong's lexicon
 - b) They have their own counsel. Ps. 1:1
 - c) Such men as these won't cease from commotion until death. Cf. Job. 3:17
 3. Scorners hate instruction. Prov. 13:1
 - a) The word for "scorner" is "loots" -- "**one who make mouths at, that is, to scoff; hence; to interpret, or intercede: ambassador, have in derision, interpreter, make a mock, mocker.**" -- Strong's lexicon
 - b) It is used of those who mocked Job in his condition. Job 16:20
 - c) A scorner hates to be reproved. Cf. Pro. 9:8
 - C. Old Testament instruction provided direction for those who heeded it.
 1. Instruction provides sustenance for decisions in life. Prov. 4:13
 2. Instruction prevents two things according to Solomon: Prov. 13:18

- a. Poverty
 - b. Shame.
- 3. Instruction can provide children with good advice concerning decision making.
 - a) Instruction can provide advice concerning wicked men. Prov. 4:13-14
 - b) Instruction can provide knowledge. Prov. 12:1
 - c) Instruction can provide a child with good habits. Prov. 22:6
- D. Solomon admonished his sons to attend to his instruction. Prov. 4:1
- E. The father in the New Testament instructs his children concerning the Lord. Eph. 6:4
 - 1. “*Bring them up*” is the idea to nourish -- *rear, bring up, educate*. – Freiberg Lexicon cf. Matt. 6:26
 - 2. Two means are given by which a father can nurture his children:
 - a) He can nurture them by means of instruct or “child-train” -- ***to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior - 'to teach, to instruct, to train, teaching, instruction.'*** – Louw- Nida
 - b) He can “admonish” -- ***to provide instruction as to correct behavior and belief - 'to instruct, to teach, instruction.'*** – Louw-Nida cf. Tit. 3:10; 1 Thess. 5:14

II. A FATHER’S SHOW LOVE FOR HIS CHILDREN BY INSTRUCTION.

A. Instruction can include correction.

- 1. The word for “correct” is *paideia* ***which is the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body; whatever in adults also cultivates the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions.*** cf. 1 Tim. 1:20; 1 Co. 11:32
- 2. Correction embodies the idea of instruction as well as corporal punishment. Prov. 13:24
 - a) “Rod” is the Hebrew word for “*shebet*” which was ***instrument used for chastening***. cf. Job. 21:9
 - b) “Rods” were used in the Old Testament for the implementation of correcting behavior.
 - (1) It was used to impact one who was “*void of understanding*” – literally without the proper heart. cf. Prov. 12:11; 24:30-34

(2) It is used for those who are “foolish” – is ivvehleth “**one who acts without counsel, and whose will is too hard for his understand; he hath no reason for what he doth, but because he hath a mind to do it.**” – Wilson’s Old Testament Word Studies cf. Prov. 22:15

B. Chastening is a normal, expected aspect of a loving Father.

1. The Old Testament word for love is ahab which in the Hebrew incorporates all of the concepts of the four New Testament words used for love; more specifically here it is used of family love. cf. Prov. 3:12
2. The use of this concept in the Old and New confirms the fact that the father who loves his son will chasten him. Prov. 13:24
3. God’s chastening of those who belong to him is patterned after that of a father for his son. Cf. Heb. 12:6-11

C. The absence of a father’s chastening pictures two things in Scripture.

1. It is a sign of a father’s hatred for his child. Prov. 13:24
 - a) “Hateth” is the Hebrew word “sane” which means “to be a foe”. -- Strong’s lexicon.
 - b) The word is used in the Old Testament of those who have contempt for someone. Cf. Gen. 37:4 (of Joseph’s brothers because of their father’s partiality)
2. It is a sign that the child does not legitimately belong to the father. Heb. 12:7-8

CONCLUSION