

Date: 14 May 2023
Speaker: Rev Dr Quek Suan Yew
Topic: To Discipline is to Love
Text: Proverbs 13:24

In Proverbs 13:24, God's Word says, "he that spareth his rod hates his own son". In other words, to not discipline our children is to hate them.

1. Type of discipline

The type of discipline that God refers to here is chastisement and correction, not punishment. It is important to remember that when we discipline or use the rod of correction, it is not done out of anger and frustration. The purpose of discipline is for correction and not for expressing anger.

2. Target of discipline

Every child is conceived in sin; they are born with the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life. Their only pathway is one of sinfulness and wickedness, and it leads to death, physical and spiritual. On the other hand, sin has no more dominion over Christians because of what the Lord Jesus Christ's death on the cross to save us. Hence, we must teach our children what is right and wrong and salvation in the Lord Jesus only — only then will they have a choice between holiness and sinfulness.

3. Time of discipline

Discipline must be carried out "betimes" (v24b) or early. If a child has yet to reach the age of accountability, we can still exercise discipline by verbally teaching the child right and wrong.

Ultimately, loving or exercising discipline our children, should always be based on God's truth and not based on sentiments.