

October 19, 2008

“Understanding The Disciplines Of The Lord”

Hebrews 12:5-11

I. What are the disciplines of the Lord?

*“For the grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age...”*  
(Titus 2:11-12)

A. It is God teaching us; influencing us to live different kinds of lives.

1. To change our conduct.
2. To change our character.
3. He wants to change why we do what we do.

B. God does not want to just change what we do, but who we are.

*“God whispers to us in our pleasure, speaks to us in our problems, but shouts to us in our pain.”*  
(C.S. Lewis)

II. Why does the Lord discipline His children?

*“For whom the Lord loves He chastens, and scourges every son whom He receives.”* (Hebrews 12:6)

A. Every thought of God for us is love continually. (Jeremiah 29:11)

B. The goal of the Lord’s discipline is to train us up. (John 1:12)

III. How should I respond to the Lord’s discipline?

*“Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live?”* (Hebrews 12:9)

A. A loving father of discipline is no longer common.

B. How to respond to God’s discipline:

1. Admit our error and turn from it. (1 Cor. 10:13)
2. Submit to God.

IV. What are the results of the Lord’s discipline?

*“For they indeed for a few days chastened us as seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness.”* (Hebrews 12:10)

A. Parenting is a short-term job.

B. God disciplines us for good.

C. God wants us to share in His holiness.

V. How do I make the most of the Lord’s discipline?

*“Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.”* (Hebrews 12:11)

A. Remember the pain is momentary.

B. Remember the profit is immense.

C. Remember the promise is conditional.

VI. What happens if I don’t respond to the Lord’s discipline?

A. It is marked by discouragement. (Hebrews 12:12)

B. It is marked by dislocation. (Hebrews 12:13-14)

C. It is marked by disqualification.

