

PROVERBS SERIES SEVEN
THE INDISPENSABLE TOOL TO THE LIFE OF WISDOM
Dr. Roger Barrier
Prov. 3:11-12; 12:1;15:31; 17:10;29:17;25:12; 2 Tim. 4:2; 3:16-17

Proverbs argues that Discipline is the indispensable tool God has designed to develop wisdom. Discipline is a do or die deal!

Unfortunately, we are all born with a case of the follies. We are not born wise! (Proverb 22:15: “Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.”) This has far reaching implications: we are not just born with a blank slate so that we can unbiasedly choose the path of foolish or wisdom. We are all born with a bent toward foolishness.

Foolishness has to be driven out step-by-step, day-by-day, month-by-month; and the foolishness must be replaced by wisdom, or we are going to be dangerous people.

There are all kinds of creative ways to drive out foolishness.

THE DEFINITION OF DISCIPLINE IS NARROWLY DEFINED IN PROVERBS.

Not hard work—not hard training like for a marathon.

Webster’s New World Dictionary: “Training that develops character, self-control, and an orderly lifestyle; treatment that corrects or punishes.”

2 Timothy 4:2: “correct, rebuke and encourage—with great patience and careful instruction.”

2 Timothy 3:16-17: “teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

THE PURPOSE OF DISCIPLINE IS CLEARLY DEFINED AS BEING FOR OUR GOOD, TO PRODUCE HOLINESS AND A HARVEST OF RIGHTEOUSNESS AND PEACE.

Proverbs 3:11-12

Hebrews 12:5-11

Discipline sounds negative to many people because some disciplinarians are not loving. They discipline out of anger or to control.

The pain of suffering sometimes keeps us from seeing what God is doing in our lives. Sometimes He melts us in the furnace so that He can stamp us with His own image.

HOW DO I RESPOND PROPERLY TO DISCIPLINE?

Proverb 12:1

Proverb 15:31

Proverb 17:10

“Submit”: What if we changed our basic impulse from protecting ourselves to becoming like Christ?

How would we respond to discipline then? Defensively? Indifferently? Not hardly. When conformity to Christ becomes our deep-seated desire, we welcome reproof in favor of our new self being created in the image of Christ (See Colosians 3:9-10.).

How Might I Respond Well To Criticism?

1. Stop and look the other person in the eye.

2. Listen carefully to what they are saying.
3. Restate to them their concerns in your own words until you both agree that you are saying and understanding the same thing.
4. If they are right in their criticism, thank them humbly for sharing their concerns and make the appropriate changes.
5. If they are wrong, thank them humbly for sharing and go on with your life.

WHERE DOES WISE, GOOD DISCIPLINE COME FROM?

OTHER FOOLS WHO ARE BEING DISCIPLINED

Proverb 19:25

WISE PARENTS WHO DISCIPLINE WISELY

Proverb 29:17

Proverb 19:18

Proverb 13:24

Proverbs 23:13-14

Proverb 22:15

WISE PEOPLE

Proverb 25:12

THE BIBLE

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Proverb 6:23

GOD HIMSELF

Proverbs 3:11-12

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN I HAVE TO DO THE DISCIPLINING?

1. Better is open rebuke than hidden love.
Proverb 27:5
2. Be careful whom you choose to instruct or rebuke. Not everyone will accept nor appreciate your efforts.
Proverb 9:8
Proverbs 26:4-5
3. Be sure you are sharing wisdom—not just opinions or ignorance.
Proverb 25:12
4. Understand the seriousness of correcting and disciplining. Approach the work humbly and carefully.
Galatians 6:1-2

Copies of today's sermon and others on Proverbs are available at the Shepherd's Heart Ministry table on the Plaza immediately after this service.