

Spare the Rod?

For some two thousand years Western Christian civilization has raised its youngsters on the biblical understanding that: *“You should know in your heart that as a man chastens his son, so the LORD your God chastens you.” (Deuteronomy 8:5)*

Just as God corrects us, Christians have believed God’s words in Proverbs 13:24, *“He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.”*

God loves us and chastises us with patience and great mercy. Anyone who has studied the bible recognises that God teaches us by rewards for good behaviour first, and punishment only when that fails. Read Deuteronomy 28 to see that principle revealed. However, every child needs to learn right from wrong, and if this principle is applied from infancy, patiently, and above all consistently, there will be little need for chastisement when the child is older. Failure to provide discipline can have bitter fruits, Proverbs 19:18, *“Chasten your son while there is hope, And do not set your heart on his destruction.”*

The New Testament continues, Hebrews 12:11, *“ 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.”*

Those who have reared stable, productive and law abiding children, know these scriptures are true and valuable guides to child rearing, but where are the church leaders now, when these biblical principles are under serious attack by the forces of darkness through national, European and world governments ?

Where is the voice of the Anglican Church, standing up for the word of God and other important issues? All we hear is silence. Meanwhile the bleeding heart liberals, who fail to understand or apply this kind of just, biblical discipline themselves, jump on the UN bandwagon condemning the parents’ right to discipline their children because some abuse that responsibility, by failing to discipline with patient, firm but consistent standards. Since when do we ban anything because a few abuse it? As an ex-executive teacher for 30 years I saw teachers lose control of their classrooms because corporal punishment is banned, so that disruption now makes successful teaching doubly difficult, but this most recent attack on education within the family takes away one more brick from the foundation of our society. Who can deny the downward spiral we are now caught up in, where we are no longer safe in our own homes, let alone the streets?

Sadly, most have rejected the way of God as revealed in the Bible, and the results for our nation are prophesied to be severe chastisement by a loving God – defeat by foreign nations in war, and punishment such as we have never before experienced.

Isaiah 10:5-6, *‘O Assyria, [Germany] the rod of my anger, the staff in their hand is my indignation. I will send him against a godless nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets.’*

Ezekiel 39:23, *“The Gentiles shall know that the house of Israel went into captivity for their iniquity; because they were unfaithful to Me, therefore I hid My face from them. I gave them into the hand of their enemies, and they all fell by the sword.”*, Ezekiel 39:28-29, *‘then they shall know that I am the LORD their God, who sent them into captivity among the nations, **but also brought them back to their land, and left none of them captive any longer.** ‘And I will not hide My face from them anymore; for I shall have poured out My Spirit on the house of Israel,’ says the Lord GOD.”*

Only then, after the chastisement, and true teaching of Christ after His return, will God’s way become the norm, and provide the peaceful, safe society we all desire.