

Parenting and Consequences, Part 2 | primary consequences

I. The Nature of Actions and Reactions

- **Spiritual Actions** — Spiritual actions have Spiritual Consequences, Physical Consequences, and Relational Consequences.
- **Physical Actions**
 - All physical action is ultimately a consequences of a spiritual action, but all physical actions have the same types of consequences that spiritual actions do.
 - Physical actions have Spiritual Consequences, Physical Consequences, and Relational Consequences.
- **Relational Actions** — The relational reactions to our physical reactions to our spiritual reactions to the knowledge we encounter in life, also have consequences that effect us spiritually, physically, and relationally.

II. The Nature of Spiritual Consequences

- **Sin hurts.** Whether we're talking about the wages of sin being death or the fact that those who scheme to hurt others inevitably end up hurting themselves or the fact that sin is lawlessness and lawlessness earns penal consequences . . . sin always hurts. Romans 3:23
 - **Sin hurts our relationship with God.**
 - **Our sin displeases God.** Hebrews 11:6; Ephesians 4:30; I Thessalonians 4:1
 - **Our sin hinders our prayers.** Psalm 66:18; I Peter 3:7
 - **Our sin closes off access to the blessings of God.** The vast majority of the promises in the Bible are conditional promises. When we do right, we have access to joy and peace and contentment and thanksgiving and so many other spiritual blessings.
 - **Sin hurts our relationships with others.**
 - In the same way that our relationship with God will be affected when we sin against Him, anyone who thinks like God will be equally displeased by our sin.
 - Our sin doesn't just hurt those who dislike our sin, our sin also hurts our relationships with people who *like* our sin.
 - Our sin hurts our relationships even when the other person *doesn't know* about our sin.
 - **Sin hurts ourselves.**
 - Sin brings Spiritual, Physical, and Relational Consequences.
 - The very act of committing a sin makes it easier to commit the same sin again in the future. This is the habit-forming consequence of sin.
 - Related to this concept is the idea of what we may call gateway sin. Not only does scratching someone because you're mad make it easier to scratch them again later when you get mad, but a habit of scratching people easily turns into slapping, which turns into punching, which escalates more and more.
- **Sin always hurts.**
 - Numbers 32:23 we learn, "*Be sure your sin will find you out.*"
 - Our kids need to understand that God is omniscient. There is nothing He doesn't know.
 - But they also need to understand that God is just. There is no sin that will not reap consequences.
 - But another important factor of this conversation is that God is also omnipotent. He cannot be tricked or overcome or outrun.
 - Our sin always hurt us, hurts others, and hurts God in the ways we've described and more. This truth is more real and constant than gravity itself.

- **Why do people invite pain into their lives?**
 - **Some people sin because they don't know about the Primary Consequences.**
 - **Some people sin because they don't *recognize* the Primary Consequences.**
 - **Some people sin because they don't *believe* in the Primary Consequences.**

III. How Parents Need to Interact with Primary Consequences in their Children's Lives

- **Parents need to teach their children the existence and nature of Primary Consequences.**
 - Our kids absolutely need to know about the Primary Consequences of their sin. We need to teach them because they're not going to realize it on their own.
 - Too often, when a person doesn't experience Physical Consequences, they believe a lie that they haven't actually experienced any consequences at all — especially when they believe they've successfully hidden their sin. Having not felt any physical sting, they believe they aren't experiencing any negative consequences at all.
- **Parents need to help their children identify the Primary Consequences in their lives.**
 - In the same way, our kids are not mature enough — they don't have the spiritual discernment to recognize the Primary Consequences in their lives. We will have to help them see specifically how they're hurting God, others, and themselves. And once they see the actual consequence, they will also likely need help recognizing that it was their sin that caused the consequence.
- **Parents need to help their children respond correctly to the Primary Consequences in their lives.** Genesis 4:4-6; James 1:13-15
 - Primary Consequences are not Penal. It's not punishment. God's goal is not merely to hurt them because they own Him. God's goal is for the hurt to teach them something. It's part of a larger lesson they need to learn. Therefore, it's in our kids' best interest for us to help them learn from the experience.
- **Parents need to bring Christ-honoring Secondary Consequences into their children's lives if they refuse to learn from the Primary Consequences.**
 - We will never understand our God-ordained role in Secondary Consequences if we don't understand how He created consequences to work and — specifically — the nature of Primary Consequences. This foundation is absolutely necessary in order for us to build a Christ-honoring system of parental discipline in our homes.
 - Though Secondary Consequences are incredibly important, please note that they are Secondary. We need to be pouring ourselves into teaching our kids about God, the consequences of sin, the promises and empowerment the Lord provides to live a life that glorifies Him, the glory of the Scriptures, and how they can have victory as they mature in holiness.
 - Secondary Consequences only become necessary — in essence — when our children reject all of that other stuff.