

Biblical Parenting Essentials, Phase 3 | methods

I. What is Correction?

- II Timothy 3:16; Acts 15:16; Amos 9:11
- In ancient Greek this word carried the idea of returning to a point of origin or a state of being.
- Biblical correction is not merely teaching. To teach is simply to give information to someone whether they choose to learn it or not.
- Correction is not reproof. Reproof is persuasively communicating to someone that they made a bad choice whether or not they choose to respond to the reproof.
- Correction isn't punishment or consequences.
- Correction isn't reconciliation. Reconciliation is a *part* of the correction process, but correction is so much more than mere reconciliation.
- Correction is just that. The thing that was *incorrect* must now be *correct* in order to have been corrected. This requires that the former incorrect behavior is no longer; instead, it's been *replaced* with correct behavior. Correction requires an actual change—not a promise to change, not an intent to change—actual change. Therefore, correction is by definition a fixing, a rectifying, a restoring to it's rightful place, position, or productivity.

II. The Absolute Necessity of Child-Participation in Correction

- James 1:22, 5:19-20; Matthew 28:19-20
- Teaching can be done even if the student doesn't learn. In the same way, reproof can be done even if the student doesn't accept it.
- When the child submits to the reproof by confessing their sin, asking for forgiveness, and committing to repentance, they are inviting us to move with them into Phase 3. Once the child embraces reconciliation, they're setting the stage for continued correction.
- However, you have not actually entered the Correction Phase of Biblical Parenting until your kids *follow* your advice, turn from their previous course, and go the opposite direction.
- **Correction is the process whereby you lead your child into biblical repentance, and they follow your lead.**
- All of the discipleship passages in the Bible illustrate the idea of correction. A discipler is leading the disciplee into change, and the disciplee is following.
- Discipleship, one-anothering, parenting, pastoring, and biblical counseling are all synonymous concepts. The only main difference is that the correction within each relationship takes place within a different kind of relationship.
 - **Many Christian parents don't get to the Correction Phase.** This happens either because their children refuse to submit, or sometimes the kids do submit, but the parents think that as long as they admitted they're wrong, everything will work itself out. They just kind of assume the kid will figure out what they're supposed to do.
 - **Most Christian parents only know how to Correct *broadly*.** General, broad correction is better than no correction, but "Change doesn't happen in fuzzy land" (Randy Patton).

III. The Necessity of Specificity

- Beneficial correction is specific correction. The more specific you can be, the better.

IV. The Value of Centering

- I Corinthians 6:12, 9:25; Proverbs 25:16, 27
- Being extreme to the right is often just as far from God's expectation as being extreme to the left. Erring to the right is still erring, and this illustrates the biblical concept of moderation.
- Your kids have been making extreme choices. Sin is insanity. Sin is stupidity. To sin on one side or the other is still sin. It's doesn't matter if you're a prostitute or a Pharisee. It doesn't matter if you're an abortionist or staunch religious practitioner if your religiosity is being done in your own power for your own glory.
- The Bible clearly condemns nearly all excess and yet demands that all things be done to the glory of God. That speaks to moderation. We must only do a thing to the degree that God is glorified, and not a second longer or a degree more.
- Likely, your kids' sin is a result of their lack of moderation. It may be extreme sinfulness like sinful sexuality, lying, stealing, rebellion, and other sins for which there are no moderate versions, but only a moderate difference.
- But it also may be in an obsession for something that is good. The behavior itself isn't inherently bad, but the immoderate participation in that activity is harmful and reveals a self-worshipping mindset. This is the root of almost all obsessive behavior even if it can be argued the behavior itself is not necessarily harmful.
- And there's also the "good" behavior that's only exercised within limits, but which is being done solely for the glory of self.
- In each of these situations, moderation looks like moving away from the extreme behavior toward a Christ-honoring "middle" position. In order to help correct your children, you can *Center* them by calling them to true obedience. This will require for them to do the right things in the right ways for the right reasons and in the right power. Centering rejects extreme behavior. It seeks to do exactly what the Scriptures says, how the Scripture says, and why the Scripture says.

V. The Value of Penduluming

- Matthew 5:29-30, 18:8-9; Mark 9:42-48; Ephesians 4:25-28
- Biblical Radical Amputation is imperative for change.
- God calls us to be holy as He is holy. His people are considered peculiar when compared to the world. In fact, when compared to the world, a biblical lifestyle is considered extreme and fanatical.
- True redemptive change requires extreme choices to mortify the flesh, flee sin, fight satanic influences, and hide from temptation.
- When it comes to helping your child repent, this approach is incredibly important. If your child is stealing, you don't encourage them to steal less and less until they finally reach a point of maturity where they no longer steal. You don't allot someone who used to lie 100 times a week a stipend of 20 lies until they mature enough to stop lying.
- The biblical reality is that these two methods are the actually the same approach viewed through two different lenses and explained with two different metaphors.
- True, Christ-honoring moderation is categorically opposed to sin. Christ-centered balance is a million miles away from fleshly humanism and requires extreme intention and Spirit-filled strength to traverse the distance.
- True, biblical correction can easily be called *Extreme Balance*. It doesn't matter how extreme it may seem to the immature, the pagan, the unbeliever, or the fool, if God commands it, we must do it.