



Week 5: Loving Discipline Produces Holy People

ABIDE: Puts us in RIGHT POSITION with God.

OBEY: Helps us to have RIGHT ACTIONS.

Hebrews 12:1-11 (CEB): ¹So then, with endurance, let's also run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let's throw off any extra baggage, get rid of the sin that trips us up, ²and fix our eyes on Jesus, faith's pioneer and perfecter. He endured the cross, ignoring the shame, for the sake of the joy that was laid out in front of him, and sat down at the right side of God's throne.

³Think about the one who endured such opposition from sinners so that you won't be discouraged and you won't give up. ⁴In your struggle against sin, you haven't resisted yet to the point of shedding blood, ⁵and you have forgotten the encouragement that addresses you as sons and daughters: *My child, don't make light of the Lord's discipline or give up when you are corrected by him*, ⁶*because the Lord disciplines whomever he loves, and he punishes every son or daughter whom he accepts*.

⁷Bear hardship for the sake of discipline. God is treating you like sons and daughters! What child isn't disciplined by his or her father? ⁸But if you don't experience discipline, which happens to all children, then you are illegitimate and not real sons and daughters. ⁹What's more, we had human parents who disciplined us, and we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of spirits and live? ¹⁰Our human parents disciplined us for a little while, as it seemed best to them, but God does it for our benefit so that we can share his holiness. ¹¹No discipline is fun while it lasts, but it seems painful at the time. Later, however, it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness for those who have been trained by it.

DISCUSS:

v. 1-2 What is endurance? How do we build it?

v. 3-4 What are we told to think about?

v. 5 What has been forgotten & how are we addressed?

v. 6 Who does God discipline and punish?

v. 8 What does it mean if we don't experience discipline?

Sanctification is not punishment. It is God's loving work of shaping believers into Christ likeness.

v. 9 How does this verse make you feel? Does your experience agree or disagree?

v. 10 Why does God discipline us?

v. 11 What does discipline produce?

HOPE SHOT: “God disciplines us for our good (out of his love for us), in order that we may share in his holiness.”

In the Wesleyan tradition, progressive sanctification is not just about knowing more theology. It is about allowing truth to continually *transform* our heart, choices, relationships, and actions.

SURRENDER: We begin to develop the RIGHT ATTITUDE.

Am I resisting God's correction?

Do I see His discipline as rejection or as love?

Even though it's painful at times, am I willing to submit as he directs? How can I cooperate with your work instead of resisting it?"

The goal of the Christian life is not simply to get to heaven. The goal is to become like Christ.

GO: We begin to have the RIGHT RESPONSE.

Examine your own thoughts, actions, and attitudes when it comes to discipline and correction from the Holy Spirit this week. Ask God to show you if there are ideas you need to surrender or ways that you have misunderstood the discipline of your loving Father God.