

APPROPRIATE STEPS WHEN SPANKING

Remember: Praise a lot, play a lot, pray a lot, teach a lot, and use cause and effect a lot. Everything is not a major issue (i.e., don't "major on the minors" and keep a mindset consistent with an understanding of progressive sanctification).

1. Give clear expectations ahead of time (e.g., have the "forgetter" repeat them).
 - ◆ Do not repeat warnings.
 - ◆ If a single warning is given, don't threaten. Rather, *inform*.
 - ◆ Once accustomed, give no warnings (or only one).
2. Ask: "What were you expected to do?" (behavior and/or attitude)
3. If guilt (i.e., liability, culpability) is established, send them to their room or some place private.
 - ◆ En route to the room, the parent should check their self control, review their discipline plan, and pray.
 - ◆ Plan to remove the "log" from your eye first if needed.
4. When you are *in control*, go to their room.
 - ◆ "What was expected?" (behavior and/or attitude)
 - ◆ "What did you do?"
 - ◆ "What does God call it in the Bible?" (*sin, disobedience, ...*)
 - ◆ "What do you need to help you learn how to please God?" (*spanking*)
 - ◆ "Because I love God and love you, what must I do?" (*spank*)
 - ◆ Pray for self and child.
5. Instruct them: "Lean over the bed."¹ Then, appropriately and slowly, ...
 - ◆ Determine the appropriate number of swats beforehand.
 - ◆ The goal is *correction* (positive), not punishment.
 - ◆ Use paint stick, ¼" dowel rod, wooden spoon, etc.
 - ◆ Use the wrist (not a full arm swing) to sting, not to jar the body
 - ◆ Make contact on the hindquarters
6. Give the child an opportunity to regain composure. Then, ...
 - ◆ Repeat #5.
 - ◆ Assess to see if there is a "change in direction". If facial expressions, tones, words, or actions do not show the fruit of repentance, another spanking may be necessary. Go back to #4.
 - ◆ If behavior is part of a sinful pattern, ask heart-searching questions.
 - ◆ Child should ask God and appropriate person(s) for forgiveness.
7. Practice "Put off / put on" by placing them in the same/similar situation.
 - ◆ Prepare them to respond differently.
 - ◆ If they do, praise them.
 - ◆ If they do not, it indicates the child needs more discipline. Go back to #3.
8. Show love to the child.
 - ◆ Hug; kiss; wipe tears away.
 - ◆ Remind them of the purpose of discipline.
 - ◆ Encourage a right attitude about discipline (cf. Pro. 1:7; 12:1; Heb. 12:7-8,11)

¹ For a small child, leaning over the lap may be easier, especially if restraint is needed to control him or her.