

PAIDEIA (noun) denotes the training of a child, including instruction; hence discipline, correction, "chastening", Eph.6:4, R.V. (A.V. "nurture"), suggesting the Christian discipline that regulates character; so in Heb.12:5,7,8 (in verse 8 A.V. "chastisement," the R.V. corrects to "chastening"); in 2 Tim.3:16, "instruction". (from VINES Expository)

Chastening is - NOT loss of salvation (our "eternal" salvation is life that lasts forever, based on and secured by Christ's finished work on the cross. It neither begins with our works, nor does it end with our works).

- NOT always physical death (that may take place after God's chastening has been rejected, ignored, resisted and rebelled against).

- NOT out of the wrath of God (see Ps.103:3,8-14; vs.10; Jn.3:36; Rom.5:9; 1 Thes.1:10; Rom.1:18 - only against the unsaved).

- NOT God's condemnatory judgment (see Rom.8:1-2; 5:16; 8:31-39).

To summarize, this "punishment" is parental, not judicial. It has to do with three concepts: Discipline, Correction, and Guidance - all which have the final purpose of spiritually getting one back on track. Someone has said, "Chastening is God loving His children and drawing them back to Himself." It is evident that this disciplinary action of God is how He continues to motivate His children to obedience and fruitfulness - whatever He may happen to use - it is for our good.

WHY DOES GOD CHASTEN?

Answer from the following:

1. 1 Cor.11:32
2. Heb.12:5-8
3. Heb.12:9
4. Heb.12:10
5. Heb.12:11

God will chasten us when we continue to deliberately sin because He loves us and cares about us as a Father for His children. If a parent leaves their child's misconduct unnoticed or unpunished, it will eventually destroy the child, the family, and others because sin and our sinful nature knows no boundaries. Also, if a child continues to go his own way undisciplined, it makes a selfish, miserable little child, and God cares about us enough to not let us become that way. Also, God wants to uphold His reputation, and glory in and through our lives. If we are incongruent with an unholy, disobedient lifestyle, He has no choice than to reconcile the matter in whatever way He deems best!

GOD'S DISCIPLINE keeps the world from condemning us (and mocking God because of our lifestyle). 1 Cor.11:31-33

GOD'S DISCIPLINE proves our Sonship. (Heb.12:7-8)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE demonstrates God's love. (Prov.3:11-12)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE makes us submit to God (humble us into obedience). (Heb.12:9)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE brings us back to where God can use us and make us fruitful. (Heb.12:11)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE makes us partakers of His holiness. (Heb.12:10)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE produces fruits of righteousness in our lives (Heb.12:11)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to correct us. (Jer.24:5-6)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to prevent sin. (2 Cor.12:7-9)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to bless us. (Ps.94:12-13)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to teach us truth. (Ps.119:71)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to teach us obedience (Heb.5:8)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to benefit us. (Heb.12:10)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to deepen the quality of our spiritual life with God as Father (Heb.12:9)

GOD'S DISCIPLINE is designed to restore the joy of our salvation (Ps.51)

CONCLUSION: NO DISCIPLINE = NO SONSHIP (vs.8)

WHEN DOES GOD CHASTEN US?

If we slip up, is He going to wipe us out? Some Christians have the misconception of God that He stalks around like a mean and heartless sadist with a club with a nail in it waiting to pounce down on some weak, straying Christian who has made a mistake. Well, this reflects a poor, limited understanding of the Doctrine of the Fatherhood of God and you will need to do a separate study (available) on the whole issue.

Throughout Scripture, it's evident that God has had to take some drastic measure at times to bring His children back, which we will look at in further detail under HOW does God chasten? But be assured that God is just, all knowing, fair, and sovereign, and gives us plenty of opportunities to get right. We can be assured that He chastens us when we need it. The following diagram will help you to discern the different levels of how God deals with us. Ultimately one either repents or God will remove him.

INSTRUCTION (could learn)

- Deut.6:6-7
- Prov.10:17
- Prov.9:9-10

ADMONITION - counsel - "exhortation" - whatever is necessary to restore (teaching, encouraging, supporting, warning, comforting...)
 "privately"

- Acts 20:31
- Acts 27:9
- Rom.15:14

WARNING (should learn) overlaps with admonishing and rebuking

- Gal.6:1
- Matt.18:15-20
- Col.1:28
- Col.3:16
- 1 Cor.4:14
- 1 Thes.5:12,14
- 2 Thes.3:15

- Ex.19:21
- Titus 3:10

REBUKE (to charge with a conviction "more openly")

- Prov.13:1
- Prov.15:31-33
- Prov.17:10
- Prov.27:5
- 1 Tim.5:20
- 2 Tim.4:2
- 2 Pet.2:16
- Tit.1:13; 2:15
- Heb.12:5
- Rev.3:19

CHASTENING (will learn) suffering

- Ps.118:18
- Prov.3:11-12
- Prov.29:15-17
- Heb.12:5-11
- Rev.3:19
- Prov.23:13
- 2 Sam.7:14
- Deut.8:5
- Job.5:17-18
- Job 36:8-10
- Ps.119:67,71,75
- Isa.1:25; 27:9
- Zech.13:9
- Jn.15:6; 15:2
- 1 Cor.5:1-5
- 1 Cor.11:30
- 1 Tim.1:20
- James 5:20
- 1 Jn.5:16
- Prov.28:13-14
- Prov.29:1
- Heb.6:4-8
- Rev.2:5
- Gal.6:7-8

PREMATURE DEATH (others learn)

The specifically cited phrases above do not mean that one has lost their salvation, because that is an eternally secured position in Christ (see other studies available). However, it does mean that a person who is saved and continues unrepentantly in willful sin after the chastening of God, the attempted admonition and restorative process of other believers and church discipline, (Matt.18:15-20; see other studies available) that such a one refusing to get right with God will be considered by God worthless (Heb.6:8) fruitless (Jn.15:6), useless, dead (Js.2:17-18), and therefore "delivered over to Satan for the destruction of their flesh that their spirit may be saved." They still go to heaven "as by fire" (1 Cor.3:15) (by the skin of their teeth) - but miserable and without honor or reward. Scripture definitely reveals that God will eventually just "take that rebellious child out permanently", in order to keep the church and His reputation "above reproach."

If none of these three things happen then they were never really saved in the first place! Is that judging? Only with righteous judgment as Jesus said in Jn.7:24, and with Scriptural criteria which God has revealed so that we don't ignorantly and undiscerningly "infect" the Body of Christ with antichrists! Look at John 2:18-19 (key verse that says they were never saved in the first place!) See also Matt.7:16; 1 Jn.3:7-10. It clearly teaches us how we are to discern between the children of the devil and the children of God!

HOW DOES GOD CHASTEN?

The best way to understand how God disciplines and deals with (us) His children is to read the accounts personally and record your conclusions from Scripture, because, "Whatever was written in earlier times (39 Old Testament books) was written for our instruction." (Rom.15:4) And again, in 1 Cor.10:6, it says that "these things happened as examples for us, that we should not crave evil..." In 1 Cor.10:11 observe how God chastened:

Israel (1 Cor.10:1-13)

Adam and Eve (Gen.3:8-24)

Cain(Gen.4:9-16)

His human creation (Gen.6:3-7, 13)

Lot's wife (Gen.19:1-26)

Families (Ex.20:5)

Miriam and Aaron (Num.12:9-15; Deut.9:20)

Balaam (Num.22:21-22)

Moses (Deut.4:21-22)

Achan (Josh.7:1-25)

David (2 Sam.12:7-15) (Ps.32:3-5)

Israel (2 Sam.24:10-17)

Israel (Lev.26:14-39)

Num.11:4-10

Deut.11:2-9; 9:8

2 Chron.6:24-31

2 Chron.7:13

Ps.106:41-44

Ps.107:17-31

Lam.1:5

Hos.7:12

Hos.10:10

Jonah

Jonah 1-4

General

Prov.1:24-31

Jer.17:10

(Study through Proverbs and note the consequences that God has decreed to use when one continues in sin). God does use the consequences of sin to chasten us.

New Testament Believers - Continue to observe how God disciplines and corrects His children.

Jn.15:6

Acts 5:1-11 (Ananias and Sapphira)

1 Cor.3:12-15

1 Cor.3:16-17

1 Cor.5:1-5

Matt.18:15-20

1 Cor.9:27

1 Cor.11:30-32

2 Cor.5:10

2 Cor.7:8-11

2 Cor.10:6-10

2 Cor.12:7-10

2 Cor.13:1-2

Gal.6:7-8
 2 Thes.3:14-15
 1 Tim.1:20 (Hymenaeus)
 1 Tim.1:20 (Alexander)
 1 Tim.5:24
 2 Tim.4:14
 Heb.2:1-3
 Heb.3:7-19
 Heb.5:11-14
 Heb.6:4-8
 Heb.10:26-31
 Heb.10:37-39
 Heb.12:5-11
 Heb.12:15-29
 Js.1:15
 Js.2:13
 Js.4:4
 Js.5:20
 1 Pet.1:6-7
 1 Pet.2:19-21
 1 Pet.3:14,17
 1 Pet.4:1
 1 Pet.4:12-16
 2 Pet.2:4-10
 2 Pet.2:20-22
 1 Jn. 5:16
 3 Jn.10
 Jude 5-7 (not believers)

Prov.15:31-32
 Prov.19:20
 Prov.19:22
 Prov.28:13
 1 Cor.11:28
 2 Cor.12:7-10
 2 Cor.13:5
 Heb.3:12
 Heb.12:5-13
 Js.4:8-10
 1 Pet.2:21-25
 1 Pet.4:19
 1 Pet.5:5-10
 2 Pet.3:11? (vs 17 & 18)
 Rev.2:2
 Rev.3:2-3
 Rev.3:18-20

Churches!

Ephesus (Rev.2:2-5)
Pergamum (Rev.2:13-16)
Thyatira (Rev.2:19-24)
Sardis (Rev.3:1-3)
Laodicea (Rev.3:15-20)

Read Ps.32 and 51 to observe how David responded to God
 Further studies available:
 Backsliding
 Three Types of Christian
 Restoring One Another
 Biblical Contrition
 Biblical Confession and Repentance
 Eternal Security: Assurance of Salvation
 Questions to Understand How to Restore
 Biblical Change

APPLICATIONAL CONCLUSION: HOW SHALL WE THEN RESPOND?

Since God is God and revealed in this way, what should our appropriate response be? "Our God is a consuming fire" (Heb.12:29) and "it is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God." (Heb.10:31) Note carefully that each of the following verses defines a specific response that one should have toward God in regards to what He may choose to correct us and conform us to Christ.

2 Chron.6:24-31
 2 Chron.7:14
 Job 5:17
 Ps.94:12-13
 Ps.119:67,71
 Prov.3:11-12
 Prov.13:1
 Prov.15:5
 Prov.12:1

Prov. 15:31-32

Prov. 19:20

Prov. 19:27

Prov. 28:13

1 Cor. 11:28

2 Cor. 12:7-10

2 Cor. 13:5

Heb. 3:15

Heb. 12:5-13

Js. 4:6-10

1 Pet. 2:21-25

1 Pet. 4:19

1 Pet. 5:5-10

2 Pet. 3:11! (vs. 17 & 18)

Rev. 2:5

Rev. 3:2-3

Rev. 3:18-20

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Further studies available:

Backsliding

Three Types of Christian

Restoring One Another

Biblical Confrontation

Biblical Confession and Repentance

Eternal Security: Assurance of Salvation

Questions to Understand How to Restore

Biblical Change

Gal. 6:7-8
 2 Thes. 3:14-15
 1 Tim. 1:20 (Hymeneus)
 1 Tim. 1:20 (Alexander)
 1 Tim. 5:24
 2 Tim. 4:14
 Heb. 2:1-3
 Heb. 3:7-19
 Heb. 5:11-14
 Heb. 6:4-8
 Heb. 10:26-31
 Heb. 10:37-39
 Heb. 12:5-11
 Heb. 12:12-29
 Ja. 1:12
 Ja. 2:13
 Ja. 4:4
 Ja. 5:20
 1 Pet. 1:6-7
 1 Pet. 2:19-21
 1 Pet. 3:14, 17
 1 Pet. 4:1
 1 Pet. 4:12-16
 2 Pet. 2:4-10
 2 Pet. 2:20-22
 1 Ja. 5:16
 2 Jn. 10
 Jude 2-7 (not belie...)

Churches!

Ephesus (Rev. 2:2-3)
 Pergamum (Rev. 2:13-16)
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 Ps. 119:67, 71
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