



Clanking Chains: Establishing Order in the Home; The Importance of Discipline in Parental Instruction, Prov 6:23; 15:5; 8:10

If the father does not enforce total and unwavering respect for his wife and back her without question, then he fails to protect her from her own children, he destroys her integrity before the children, he damages her respect for him as the head of the household, and he is responsible for the disorder that occurs and the rebellion which follows on two fronts: (1) by his wife and (2) by his children.

Conversely, if the wife does not encourage total and unwavering respect for her husband and support him and his policies without question, then she fails to respect her husband before her own children, she destroys his integrity before the children, she rejects his love for her, and she is responsible for the disorder that occurs and the rebellion which follows by her children and the discord that is created with her husband.

Exoterikē harmonia within a marriage or a family can only be established by instruction and can only be maintained by submission to duly appointed authorities. The same is true in any organization including a local church. The father must lead in the household or there will be no consistent harmony. The desired harmony is established first with the instruction of policy followed by consistent enforcement of that policy. Returning now to:

Friedrich. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 605:

In the Wisdom literature of Israel and Judah, however, the reference is not just to the education of children but to the cultivation of the character of adults. Fear of God is the beginning of knowledge, while fools despise wisdom and culture: Proverbs 1:7. The goal of instruction, according to Proverbs 1, is "to learn wisdom and discipline, to understand intelligible speech, to attain to wholesome discipline, righteousness, duty, and integrity, to teach knowledge and circumspection to the boy. Let the wise man hear and increase his wisdom, and the man of understanding find guidance." It is plain that the reference is to practical moral training rather than purely intellectual education.

Proverbs 6:23 - For the commandment is a lamp, and the teaching is light, and reproofs for discipline [מוסר *musar*] are the way [דרך *derek*: wheel-tracks] of life.

The reference here is undoubtedly to a discipline and education voluntarily and independently accepted. Only a fool will reject his father's advice:

Proverbs 15:5 - A fool rejects his father's discipline [מוסר *musar*], but he who regards reproof is prudent.

Culture and knowledge are more costly than silver or gold:

Proverbs 8:10 - Take my instruction [מוסר *musar*: "culture"], and not silver, and knowledge rather than choicest gold.

Friedrich. *Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, 621:

C. The Paideia Concept in the New Testament.

Hebrews 12 speaks of the ... relation between father and son. It is shown to be a moral one by the education, discipline and correction which the father accords to the son in responsible love. Since the reference in Hebrews 12 is to sinful men, who are not willing to recognize their sin, παιδεία, *paideia* is accomplished by the more judicial function of conviction and punishment.



The Frankfurt philosophers and Summerhill's staff believed children must be separated from moral and religious instruction. Renunciation of these teachings plus that of parental discipline and direction were designed to development a disposition conducive to an utopian worldview.

Gerhard Friedrich in his article on *paideia* has indicated not only the importance of parental instruction but also the fact that it becomes ineffective without discipline. In fact, if a father truly loves his children he must discipline them so that they will become submissive to the authoritarian system designed by God. To do otherwise would be to train children to oppose authority and ultimately reject God's whether expressed in the gospel or in doctrine.

The passage that mentions the largest number of words in the **παιδεύω, paideuō** word group is Hebrews 12:5-11 where we find eight occurrences. Thus it becomes the major reference regarding child training and discipline and therefore the major apologetic to the assertions of Frankfurt and Summerhill. This demands that we examine this context.