



REPENT AUSTRALIA

*"If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin and heal their land."
2 Chronicles 7:14*

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DESPERATELY NEEDING DISCIPLINE

Over the last decades we have seen a steady decline in decency and protective values. These days unbridled hedonism is strongly promoted and any form of restraint is virtually forbidden. Discipline has become a dirty word. The emphasis today is on rights: Aboriginal rights, child's rights, women's rights and so on. Our laws now even criminalise disciplining children both at home and at school. In place of moral discipline we have placed a strong emphasis on tolerance and acceptance. Nothing and no one must be judged. Everything is acceptable. Thus the moral absolutes and issues of right and wrong have gone by the board in a headlong rush to be seen as tolerant and non-judgmental. Consequently, there is little respect shown and young people are doing whatever they like---and getting away with it. Nevertheless, it is a problem that demands our serious attention---one that has answers if we are only willing to rethink our present misconceived attitudes to discipline---the secret of godliness.

Failing to Teach Respect

In schools, the strongest punishment for such serious misdemeanours as striking a teacher is ten days' suspension---which is nothing more than a short school holiday. Over the last two years in WA there has been a 32% increase in student attacks on teachers; many are leaving the profession and tell of increasing difficulty keeping classrooms and students under control. Nevertheless, the problem will only escalate while parents fail to discipline, teach respect and what is acceptable behaviour and the schools' hands remain tied by the current law forbidding the use of corporal punishment in the form of the cane or paddle. Banning the cane from schools was just plain stupid because now teachers have to rely on psychologists, counsellors and detentions, with very limited effect. What the do-gooder experts fail to realise is that rebellion builds up in a child when he or she is not adequately punished for wrongdoing. Consequently the antisocial behaviour of many teenagers is very often the outcome of resentment that has grown over the years because of ineffective discipline when they were younger. It is high time the powers-that-be recognised that the judicious use of the rod is by far the most effective way to transform disruptive students from recalcitrance to willing obedience in next to no time.

Lack of Effective Discipline

However, basic to the problem is the lack of effective discipline in the home as well as in the school. Parents who smack their children find they rarely need to do it often. A child who is consistently and fairly disciplined soon learns the parameters of good and bad behaviour and responds accordingly. Moreover, contrary to the claims of those hoodwinked by political correctness---who think they know better than their forefathers and the time-tested Word of God---judicious smacking bears no resemblance to child abuse. The intention, the action itself and the result are completely different. If it is deserved and given with restraint, a smack causes no lasting physical harm, but may well cause some lasting moral good. In fact, it will achieve just what the Book of Proverbs says it will: "Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of correction will drive it far from him." Moreover, "he who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly."

Malfunctioning Homes

Unfortunately, many homes today are badly malfunctioning because they flagrantly disobey the Holy Word of God. Divorce is rampant with one-third of marriages failing and too many consist of young unmarried mothers with no father and the only male figure in the child's life is a casual boyfriend or de facto male, but no father related by blood who has the child's best interests at heart. In fact, there is a growing trend for young mothers in their teens and early twenties to leave their children with partners or family once a week and go out to get drunk with their friends because they are struggling to cope with parenthood. However, true as that may be, it goes without saying that the crying need of the day is the restoration of moral values and discipline. Despite the humanistic belief that sin and evil are illusory, that man is inherently good---when all the evidence only proves the fallen nature of the human species---the wilful, vicious, mindless crimes committed by even young children show this philosophy to be gravely flawed. To love a child is to discipline him/her, even as God disciplines those whom He loves. "My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when He rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those whom He loves and punishes everyone He accepts as a son."

Fundamental Malaise

What has happened to our society that was once so law-abiding? Why are so many young people ill-mannered and foul-mouthed to the older generation? Why is there so much loutish behaviour in public places and such disrespect for those in authority? Why do we have all-in brawls at teenage parties that terrorise the neighbours? Why? Of course it is due to lack of discipline. But deeper down is a fundamental malaise that began when our society rejected the Christian faith as the standard for our conduct and succumbed to the deadly philosophy of secular humanism. Since then a new sub-culture has grown up among many of our youth. Right and wrong are no longer relevant. If it feels good, do it. One outcome of this insidious doctrine is the breakdown in family life, that together with violent computer games, unsupervised internet use and violent, sex-laced television programs has helped produce rebellious, undisciplined youth. We have sown to the wind, and are reaping the whirlwind.

Self-Destroying Hopelessness

At the core of the problem is self-destroying hopelessness. Young people feel hopeless and helpless in the face of possible nuclear annihilation, family disintegration, climatic catastrophes and the meaninglessness of life. To counteract this hopelessness there must be hope; hope that will triumph over death and destruction; hope that their entire lives are not some ghastly accident 'full of sound and fury, but signifying nothing'. Such hope is possible. It can be a reality to everyone today, even as it has been down the centuries, uplifting and stirring to successful endeavour. This hope must be rediscovered by a world of hopelessness, and especially by today's youth, the world of tomorrow. This hope is found only in Jesus Christ through God's Holy Spirit. He is the hope of the world, or to be specific, "Christ in *you* is the hope of the world". Look to Jesus, youth of Australia, and all the purposelessness and emptiness 'will grow dim in the light of His glory and grace'. Indeed, may the God of hope fill you with joy and peace as you trust Him, so that you may overflow with hope through His Holy Spirit.

PRAYER

Lord God Almighty, help us all to realise that we will be judged by Your Living Word, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. Dear Father of Glory, as Your children redeemed by the blood of Jesus, we entrust ourselves to You so Christ may live through us in the power of Your Holy Spirit. Your Word says: "Woe to those who call evil good," but that is exactly what we are doing as we raise a generation of undisciplined, disrespectful youth. Forgive us, O Lord. We confess we have abandoned the Christian values of the Bible and have failed to discipline our children in the erroneous belief this will build their self-esteem. We have undermined authority in the name of political correctness. We have polluted the minds of our youth with TV and the internet, accepting profanity and pornography by calling it freedom of expression. Thank You, Merciful Father, that we can turn to You with contrite hearts, recognising that we *Desperately Need Discipline* for our spiritually lost youth. May Your Spirit of humility convict us all to sincerely repent and surrender our lives to JESUS CHRIST, acknowledging Him as LORD and SAVIOUR and coming KING and JUDGE, to the glory of Almighty God. Amen.

R.A: Led by our Lord Jesus Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit to glorify the Fatherhood of God with the Brotherhood of Man; in love and in faithfulness to bring glory and honour to His holy name.

REJOICE IN COVENANT PRAYERS FULLY IN THE HOLY SPIRIT DAILY FOR AUSTRALIA'S REVIVAL.