

# *The Duties of The Priest*

## *Part 17*

*“<sup>18</sup>If someone has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, <sup>19</sup>his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. <sup>20</sup>They shall say to the elders, “This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious. He will not obey us. He is a glutton and a drunkard.” <sup>21</sup>Then all the men of his town are to stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid.” (Deuteronomy 21:18-21)*

Each family is very important for the church because the discipleship of the children is starting in the family. Therefore each and every family is a congregation that forms the church. And the church has important rule to direct the parents and help them and equip them in order to nurture their children in a proper way. From the above chosen passage we can learn important principle for child discipline and nurturing.

**1- Both parents are involved in the child discipline:** Both father and mother should agree with one another about the word of God and about the discipline that they should apply on their children. In some families the father is the one who is disciplining and spanking the children when they disobey but the mother are not involve or unwilling to do so. Or the opposite the mother is disciplining but the father is not involved in that. Or one parent is doing that but the other partner is against that. In such situation the children will receive different message from the parents and as an outcome of that, the discipline will not be effective and the child will not do well because he is receiving encouragement for his wrong doing. If one of the parents is compromising that will not help the child but will harm him, *“Whoever spares the rod hates their children, but the one who loves their children is careful to discipline them.” (Proverbs 13:24)*

**2- Sin must be defined:** In the chosen passage the sins that are mentioned are stubbornness, rebelliousness, not responding to discipline, gluttony and drunkenness. Each and every parents should be aware about the sin that their children are doing. Some parents they are saying that their children are very good. That it can be partially correct because every child will have some characters and actions that are good but he has also some characters and actions that are bad because the bible says that, *“Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.” (Proverbs 22:15)* So each and every parent should discover the shortcoming of their

children. If that not clear to them they should ask the LORD to reveal that to them so they can treat it and handle it properly.

**3- The parent should not cover up their children sin:** It is not something shameful if the children are doing wrong because that is expected from children. Therefore parents should not have pride that will give them shameful feeling and finally cause them to cover their children sins. It is not shameful for the parent that their children are doing wrong but shameful and it is sin if they will not deal with it properly.

**4- The parents who do not deal with their children sins are sinning against the LORD:** God entrusted children to the parent who should raise them and train them in the fear of the LORD. Unwillingness to do that is sin because God’s word to the parents is the following: *“<sup>6</sup>These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. <sup>7</sup>Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.” (Deuteronomy 6:6-7)* Parents are to impress God’s rule on the children and to apply the right discipline if that is needed to do so.

**5- When the children are not responding to the parents discipline, the family should refer them to the church:** In the passage that we read it mentioned that, about the child who is not listening and obeying his parents after they discipline him, *“his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town. <sup>20</sup>They shall say to the elders, ... .” (Deuteronomy 21:19-20)* The biblical principle of referring the child who is not responding to discipline to the church we can find that also in *Matthew 18:15-17* *“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over. <sup>16</sup>But if they will not listen, take one or two others along, so that ‘every matter may be established by the testimony of two or three witnesses.’ <sup>17</sup>If they still refuse to listen, tell it to the church; and if they refuse to listen even to the church, treat them as you would a pagan or a tax collector.”* Our children are our brothers. The first person who will discover the sin should be the one to go and face. And that what one of the parents should do when he found the child is doing wrong, should go and face and explain to him his wrong doing and give him what agreed of punishment to what he did. If the person will not respond then take one or two with you so the matter will be established by the testimony of two or three people. If the child is not responding to one of the parents the other parent should be called and involved in the applying the discipline on the child. If the person is not responding then the church should informed and get

involved. If the child is not responding to the parents then the elder of the church should get informed and involved in applying the discipline on the child.

The importance of the church to get involved in such situation is to help the family in the following aspects:

- A- The Church should examine the atmosphere in the house and if there is certain factors (Like TV, friends, bad toys, etc.) that aggravate the child condition and cause him to disobey. Then the church will explain that to the parents and help them to eliminate that from the house or the child surrounding atmosphere. The church also at this stage instruct the child with the word of God and show him his wrong doing in more profound way and from the scripture, ***“Brothers and sisters, if someone is caught in a sin, you who live by the Spirit should restore that person gently. But watch yourselves, or you also may be tempted.” (Galatians 6:1)*** That will help the family and the child will be restrained ***“<sup>2</sup> Carry each other’s burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” (Galatians 6:2)***
- B- If it needed that the child also need to be spanked by the elders of the church to restrain the child of that particular family, then this thing needs to be done. As well as the other children will hear about that and will behave and listen to their parents, ***“Then all Israel will hear and be afraid, and no one among you will do such an evil thing again.” (Deuteronomy 13:11)***
- C- Once such system is there in the church and applied then it is doubtful if other children will not respond to the parents discipline. Actually once you will tell the child that I will inform the church about that he/she will be afraid and will behave.
- D- If the children will not respond to the above measure then treat them as non believers. In this way the church will start to evangelize them and speak to them the word of God and try to understand the psychology of that particular child in a better way.
- E- Certain sins according to ***1Corinthians 5:11-13*** that says, ***“But now I am writing to you that you must not associate with anyone who claims to be a brother or sister but is sexually immoral or greedy, an idolater or slanderer, a drunkard or swindler. Do not even eat with such people. <sup>12</sup> What business is it of mine to judge those outside the church? Are you not to judge those inside? <sup>13</sup> God will judge those outside. “Expel the wicked person from among you.”*** Should be dealt with in a more firm way. The child or the youth or the young adult who is doing adultery, immoralities, stealing, cheating, who is

drunkard or doing aggressive things, and non willing to repent then he/she should not be kept within the atmosphere of the family. He/she needed to be expelled outside the house. And such person should not receive any support from the parents. Parents should love God more than their children and should not support their children if they are doing such shameful things. When the child will know that such system is existing in the church and the family and for sure he/she will not receive any support from the family if he do that and he/she will not be recognized publicly by his parent that he/she is a son or daughter to them then really he/she will be afraid to do such wrong doing.

- F- The parents who still continue to support their children who are doing all the above mentioned sins and continue to give them money and provide them shelter to live and support their daily needs and condone their sins and compromise with them, then the church should not consider such parents as royal priesthood or a worker in the church. ***“Anyone who loves their son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.” (Matthew 10:37b)***
- G- The parents who stand with the LORD and not compromise with the sins of their children and not condoning their wickedness they don’t need to be ashamed of their children wrong doing because they have done their part, and the church should support them spiritually and comfort them and encourage them to continue to do their ministry and service unto God.

***My Dear and Beloved:*** God’s word show us clearly His ways and convince us with the truth that we need to follow. Someone may say ***“This is a hard teaching. Who can accept it.” (John 6:60)?*** But that is the truth that set us free. Many families and churches are destroyed by sin because no one is willing to stand with the truth and discipline the children. But when such willingness to obey and such system is existing then that will help many children to behave and we will not lose any one of them. But if discipline in such way as we discussed above is not existing then devil will take advantage and lives of many families and children will be in ruin.

***My Prayer:*** *Father God I come before you in the name of Jesus who died on the Cross for my sins and rose from the dead to give me eternal. Lord I realized the truth and the value of your word. Lord I commit myself to abide and to apply your word in the life of my family and the church. Lord helps me and strengthens me to be able to achieve that to you, and you will be the one to grant success to my family and preserve my children. This is my prayer in Jesus name, Amen.*