“To Spank or Not to Spank”  
(Information from *Don’t Make Me Count to Three*, Ginger Plowman)

**Inappropriate Spankings:**

*For Childish Behavior*

> Children are naturally immature and should not be disciplined for acting in accordance with their age. There is a difference between childishness and foolishness.

*For Inability to Perform*

spanking to force a child to perform athletically or intellectually mentions athletically or intellectually: i.e. making a C clarifies not talking about not doing best emphasizing not trying to change natural abilities and personal desires of children motivated in parent’s pride

*For Accidents*

frustrating – yes. Ask: “Did accident occur as result of disobedience?” respond like you would if it were you!

*Before Having All of the Facts*

Proverbs 18:13 – *He who answers a matter before he hears it, it is folly and shame to him.* motivated by frustration or anger

*While You Are Angry*

sinning against God and child take time to pray and deal with own heart motivated by anger

**Appropriate Spankings:**

*Direct Disobedience*

*Defiant Attitude* – be cautious – can be subjective some obvious: huff, folded arms, throwing on floor, lip – show of defiance different than the subtle look in the eye, frown that I interpret

*Lying* (added)
Guidelines for Administering Biblical Chastisement:

*Discuss what the child has done wrong and why it is your responsibility to spank him*

*Guide the child in thinking through what he should have done* (could be done after)

*Use the proper instrument as your spanker* (not so stiff you bruise, little flex so stings without marking)

*Let the child know how many swats you will be administering* (keeps controlled)

*Spank as promptly after the offense as possible* (w/ toddler; 4 and older can remember)

*Administer the spanking in private*

*Administer the rod to the child’s bottom* (sensitive to pain, but cushioned so no phys damage)

*Take time for reconciliation and pointing to the Gospel*

*Require the child to make restitution.* (practice what is right; acknowledging wrong or asking forgiveness; return or replace something)

Concluding Thoughts:

**Our Confidence:** “If we make sure that the methods we use for disciplining, training, and instructing our children originate from Scripture, we can be confident that we are raising our children the right way, which is God’s way.”

**Our Dependence** “…keep searching and learning from your holy instruction manual, the Bible.”

**Our Reward** “…we will reap what we sow. Let us keep on sowing the seeds of righteousness.”