

Hebrews: God's People (Hebrews 12:3-11)

1. The consideration.

Hebrews 12:3-4 (ESV) ³ Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. ⁴ In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood.

Philippians 2:8 (ESV) And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

2. Suffering as a child of God.

Hebrews 12:5-8 (ESV) ⁵ And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? "My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." ⁷ It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? ⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons.

Proverbs 3:11-12 (ESV) ¹¹ My son, do not despise the LORD's discipline or be weary of his reproof, ¹² for the LORD reproves him whom he loves, as a father the son in whom he delights.

➤ Two things to understand:

1. Don't be confused by false freedom.

John 10:27 (ESV) *My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me.*

2. Don't assume.

➤ **Overall, children of God will receive His rebuke and respond to His instruction!**

3. Proof of Discipline: Share in His holiness.

Hebrews 12:9-11 (ESV) ⁹ *Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live?* ¹⁰ *For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.* ¹¹ *For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

*Correct discipline and the correct response to discipline
will result in one receiving instruction and produce the right result.*

Application: A few things to ponder this week.

- When we go through suffering and/or struggles do we consider Christ or ourselves? Do we look to Jesus or our own wants?
- How does Jesus model obedience to the Father? (Phil. 2:8) How can we “consider” His model?
- What does it mean to struggle against sin? Do we struggle? Is there such thing as a non-struggling Christian, why or why not?
- How often do we tend to over-emphasize our struggle? Jesus struggle produced life, how can ours?
- Proverbs 3:11-12.
 - How can we make sure that we do not “lightly regard” God’s discipline? What does it mean to become callous to God or complacent to sin?
 - How do we not become weary of God’s instruction? How can we hear God, not just listen?
- Hebrews 12:8. Who participates in God’s discipline?
 - What does false freedom mean? (John 10:”27)
 - What does it mean to assume in the discipline of God? How can we guard against this and why is it so important?
- What does parenting teach us about our frailty as children of God and the perfection of our Father?
- How can we make sure that we parent in the same way we live as children of God?
- What is the goal of God’s discipline? (V10) What is the product of God’s discipline? (V9)
- How must we respond to the correct discipline of God? What’s the final result here on earth as well as into eternity?