



## The Burning Bush—Online article archive

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### **NSPCC tells parents to turn their backs on disobedient children**

In a recent publication entitled "Parenting - A Rough Guide", the NSPCC tells parents that smacking is a futile and counterproductive exercise that engenders anger and hurt in children. It advises parents that the best way to deal with children who refuse to stop squabbling is to leave them or "sit with their back to the children"!

Since behind a parent's back is traditionally the place to get up to mischief, this procedure seems designed to facilitate misbehaviour rather than stopping it and is therefore doomed to failure!

The guide also says: "A child may obey someone who hits them because they are frightened, but they have not learned what it is they must not do." They most certainly will if the parent tells them why they are being smacked.

An NSPCC parenting adviser, Eileen Hayes, said that parents were crying out for sensible advice on maintaining discipline amongst children. The guide is designed for professional counsellors and offers what are called "tried and tested solutions to everyday child-rearing problems, such as supermarket tantrums, squabbling and refusals to go to bed."

These are not tried and tested solutions but rather trendy notions and foolish innovations. Nor will they provide parents with the answers they require. They are but another step away from the standards of God in the parent/child relationship that began in earnest with Dr. Spock some 40 years ago. Interestingly, Spock was reported to have repudiated his earlier views for more traditional views before he died.

These trendy views on child discipline are but part of the overall departure from God's Word which comprises the latter-day apostasy, predicted by Old and New Testament writers. One of the features of the predicted apostasy is disobedient children. This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 2 Timothy 3:1-2. A glance at Romans 1:30 will show that such disobedience has always been a feature of apostasy. One of the problems with the whole discussion of corporal punishment is that those opposed to it deem it to be typified by the demented outburst of parents who are moved to act against their children's riotous behaviour, only whenever their favourite soap opera is interrupted by the noise the children make or when their pint of lager is knocked over, as the youngsters rampage past during "Match of the Day"!

Most of us have seen such outbursts in the supermarket as a whining, growling youngster stretches the indifference (it cannot be called tolerance) of a parent to breaking point. Bad temper then takes over and the child is suddenly subjected to an intense assault without explanation. That is not discipline. That is parental delinquency! Such actions must not be considered as the exercise of discipline and certainly must not be confused with what the Bible directs the parent to employ. The Bible would have us to teach our children verbally and practically that defiance of rightful authority will bring punishment that is painful.

After all, that is the basis of order in society. It certainly is the basis of the rule of God. The wages of sin is death, Romans 6:23. An essential aspect of the gospel of Jesus Christ is that defiance of God's law brings a terrible punishment. Be not deceived; God is not



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mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap, Galatians 6: 7.