

SOP: Discerning the difference between Discipline and Punishment

Definitions:

Punishment: What we receive from the hands of man for past failures

Discipline: What we receive from the heart of God for future training.

- A punitive response to a child can cause: blame shifting, fear of failure, unwillingness to try new things.

Goal of Discipline:

- Teach, guide
- Build skills for better choices—by showing what is acceptable
- It allows both child and adult to develop solutions

Goal of punishment:

- Make someone pay for their transgressions
- Make someone consider an immediate change in their behavior—through hindering it
- Express the emotions that you feel their behavior produced in you—when the one in authority justifies anger, harshness, demeaning or discouraging words.

Discipline is a Reflection of the nature of God

- Deuteronomy 8:5
- Revelation 3:19
- Hebrews 12:4-8

On earth as it is in Heaven

- Hebrews 12:9-13
- Proverbs 19:18
- Proverbs 29:17
- Proverbs 13:24

Discipline Yourself:

- I Timothy 7b-8
- A functional adult needs to know and incorporate boundaries, fulfill obligations without continual supervision.

Role of the Church—Gifts from Body

Exhort: encouragement to do the right thing

Bearing witness: a work of the Holy Spirit—must be willing to speak up

Admonish: gentle warning to steer someone toward right behavior (good try—but do this...)

Reproof: offered as midcourse correction. Used for honest errors, mistakes, accidents, immaturity

Rebuke: not first response; used for repeated behavior, inappropriate words or actions that have already received correction.

Exclusion: The corporal punishment for failure to respond to corrections