

Absolute Standards; Purpose of Discipline

pas + huios - “every son”

The noun here is the one used to describe an adult son. This connotes the adoption of the believer into the Royal Family of God by means of the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

The unbeliever is looked upon as *nepios*, a child immature both intellectually and physically and under the supervision of a pedagogue. The believer is looked upon as an adult son who is granted status and privilege in the household. With status and privilege comes responsibility and accountability, thus the believer must learn to function under the rules of the household. The household is the Royal Family of God and its rules are delineated in the imperative moods of the New Testament.

Although these mandates constitute the desired modus operandi of the Church-Age believer, they, in reality, reflect the norms and standards of the heavenly *politeuma*. Whenever a son fails in his responsibilities and obligations under the heavenly *politeuma*, then the Father must discipline that son as a display of His love for him.

A father never disciplines the child of another’s household, only those of his own. The reason? He desires the best from his own sons and thus requires them to measure up to his righteous standards.

God the Father loves all his children. Through love He is motivated to bless and reward those who comply with His policies. Through love He is motivated to chastise and discipline those who refuse to comply with His policies. The latter is the message of:

Hebrews 12:6 - For you see, whom the Lord loves, He disciplines by means of chastisement and punishes to the maximum every son who he welcomes home.

The objective of discipline is stated by our Lord in:

Revelation 3:19 - Those whom I love [all believers], I reprove [*elencho*: elementary levels of discipline], and I chastise [*paideuo*: advanced levels of discipline], therefore, be zealous [respond positively to the discipline] and rebound [confession alone to God alone].

The constant availability of reversion recovery is stated in the next verse, one which is unfortunately quoted out of context by many who regard this as a salvation passage. However, this passage is a challenge to reversionists in the church at Laodicea to recover from reversionism by recognizing their error and confessing their sins.

Revelation 3:20 - Now hear this! I stand at the door [availability of instant recovery through rebound] and I keep knocking [divine discipline in 3 categories]. If anyone [cosmic believer] hears My voice [rebound motivation] and opens the door [rebound recovery], I will enter face to face with him [restoration to fellowship inside the Divine Power System] and I will dine with him [the soul will feed on the teaching of the Word] and he with Me [the Spirit-filled believer metabolizes the doctrine into his heart thus taking on the thinking of the Shekinah Glory].

And even though the reversionist may spend a prolonged period of time in cosmic living, some even a lifetime, he cannot lose his salvation.

Galatians 3:26 - For you all are sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

Once a son, always a son. You cannot be unborn or deselected. Those who are in Christ cannot be denied salvation, therefore they are disciplined as sons under the motivation of unconditional love.

2 Timothy 2:12 - If we endure [advance to spiritual maturity], we shall also reign with Him [Nike Award #7; Revelation 3:21]; if we deny Him [cosmic living], He also will deny us [no escrow blessings in time or eternity].

2 Timothy 2:13 - If we are faithless [reversionists], He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself.

It is God's desire to bless and reward His sons. Righteousness will not permit justice to bless and reward a son who is out of fellowship and is living in the Cosmic Academy.

Those who matriculate in the Cosmic Academy might be classified as follows:

Freshmen	Carnal
Sophomores	Cosmic One: Arrogance
Juniors	Cosmic Two: Hatred
Seniors	Reversionism

Along with all of these are the varying stages of discipline designed to goad the believer back onto God's desired path for his life.