What a Father Wants

**Read:** Hebrews 12:5b-11

**Text:** Isaiah 53:10 “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him…”

**Introduction:** God has designed the home in an interesting way. In most homes the mother is known as sweet and kind. She is the one that children go to when they want to hear a yes answer. The father, on the other hand, is usually the one with a heavy hand. He is the one who gets to do most of the hard discipline. He is the one who utilizes the “NO” answer the most in the home. It is the father to whom Paul speaks when he says not to provoke his children to wrath; for it is the father who usually feels provoked himself.

In the Christian home usually both parents try to operate in the best interest of their child regardless of what the child wants.

**I. God sets the father’s example:** vs. 6 Paul tells us that it is the love of God that incites Him to chasten His children. Could it be that my dad was right when he said (after a beating) “I do this because I love you son.” I wanted to say: “Please, go love on someone else.” But I didn’t. I kinda’ knew it would cause another of those loving beatings.

Paul does not stop there: he goes on and says that it is this same love that precedes His scourging of those same children. Scourging is an extreme level of discipline.

**II. Discipline reveals relationship:** vs 7 It is illegal to discipline a child who is not yours. As I looked back on my childhood this week I actually wondered why my siblings and I stayed around and endured the constant beatings. This scripture answered the question for me. “If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as sons…” We were his children and therefore we believed that our dad had the right to try and beat the devil out of us.

As a father myself I have realized that it is not only a right but also it is a responsibility to discipline the children that God has given to me. It is not a responsibility governed by law; rather it is a responsibility of love that he raise his children, so that they will turn out to be the obedient children of their heavenly father as well.

**III. A snapshot of our heavenly relationship:** The 9th verse is a message that brings each father here full circle. Just as we are pleased when our children give us the respect that we desire so our Heavenly Father is pleased when we give Him the honor and respect that He desires. Dad, let me ask you, are you living in subjection to the word of God or not? Dad, are you listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit or not? Dad, can you honestly say that you are making a sincere attempt to changer in areas that God is dealing with or have you thrown your hands up in the air and quit?

**IV. God’s discipline of you, dad, reveals His love for you:** This week I read Isaiah 53:10 during my scripture reading. On Friday at the prison this chapter was part of the assigned reading. When you read the words: “Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him…” What does this say to you? Just exactly why was God pleased to see His son abused and placed on the cross? In Hebrews 12:10 we read that we are chastened for our profit. Does that seem harsh to you dad? When we spank our children we convince ourselves that it is for their own good. Does it seem logical that when God sends discipline into our lives that He knows that it is for our good?

God, The Father, was pleased to place His son on the cross because He knew that it was the only way to provide salvation for any and all of His creation that would choose the freedom provided. He, the creator of love, was willing to look on His Son on the cross and know that the death of his son would bring life into a hopeless world; and He was pleased.

**Conclude:** Just as a father would rather take his child to Cold Stone than discipline them; so God would rather treat us to an ice cream sundae or two but knows that right now we are better served by His discipline. God gives us what we need and not what we want. Our scripture concludes with the 11th verse “Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness…”