

No Stupid Children

I would not advise it, but it is true. The next time your child pushes aside your instruction or rejects your discipline, you could say tell them they are 'stupid.' Again, I would not advise it, but it would be true. Solomon wrote,

**Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge,
But he who hates reproof is stupid.**

--Proverbs 12:1

We often think of 'hate' as a reference to seething and detestable thoughts or attitudes against something. We should understand that the term 'reject' also fits as a synonym. Anyone who 'rejects' reproof (verbal correction) is stupid.

The term 'discipline' includes all aspects of discipline AND instruction. We most often do not view discipline as pleasant, and for the moment it is not. However, instruction and discipline are for good.

Every parent should adopt the attitude that instruction and discipline are expressions of love that have the goal of instilling godly principles, proper attitudes, and proper behavior in children. At the same time, parents must make every effort to instruct and discipline in such a way that their children can recognize the good in following instruction and discipline.

Harsh words do not mark good instruction. Impulsive discipline will not teach beneficial lessons. After a moment of discipline, 'silence' on the part of the parent is NOT 'golden'; children need understanding and reassurance of parental love.

Instruction and discipline are imperative, but there is more. Children need to be taught/trained that instruction and discipline are good for them. They need to be taught to *love and desire* instruction and discipline.

To help them learn to love discipline and instruction parents must 'tell' their children the benefits of discipline and instruction in relation to real-life, identifiable, practical examples. In other words, after having given instruction and/or discipline, a parent should *be on the lookout* for a teachable moment that will illuminate the benefit of previous instruction/discipline. That moment may not be immediate; perhaps days will pass. But be watchful and aware; the opportunity will come.

Do not make the teachable moment an 'I told you so' moment. Rather, when the teachable moment arrives, draw their attention back to the instruction and/or discipline. Then explain the connection. Help them to appreciate the benefit that resulted.

Over time you will find there to be less need for discipline and more times of simple instruction.

And your kids will not be stupid.