

Christian Parenting

Week 6

The Reward and Punishment Fallacy

(why reward and punishment don't work,
and what you can do instead...)



Winter Quarter, 2018
Greg (& Vikki) Nordstrom

But as for *you*, continue in
what you have learned and
have firmly *believed*, knowing
from whom you learned it
and how *from childhood*
you have been
acquainted with the
sacred writings,
which are able to make
you wise for
salvation
through faith in
Christ Jesus.

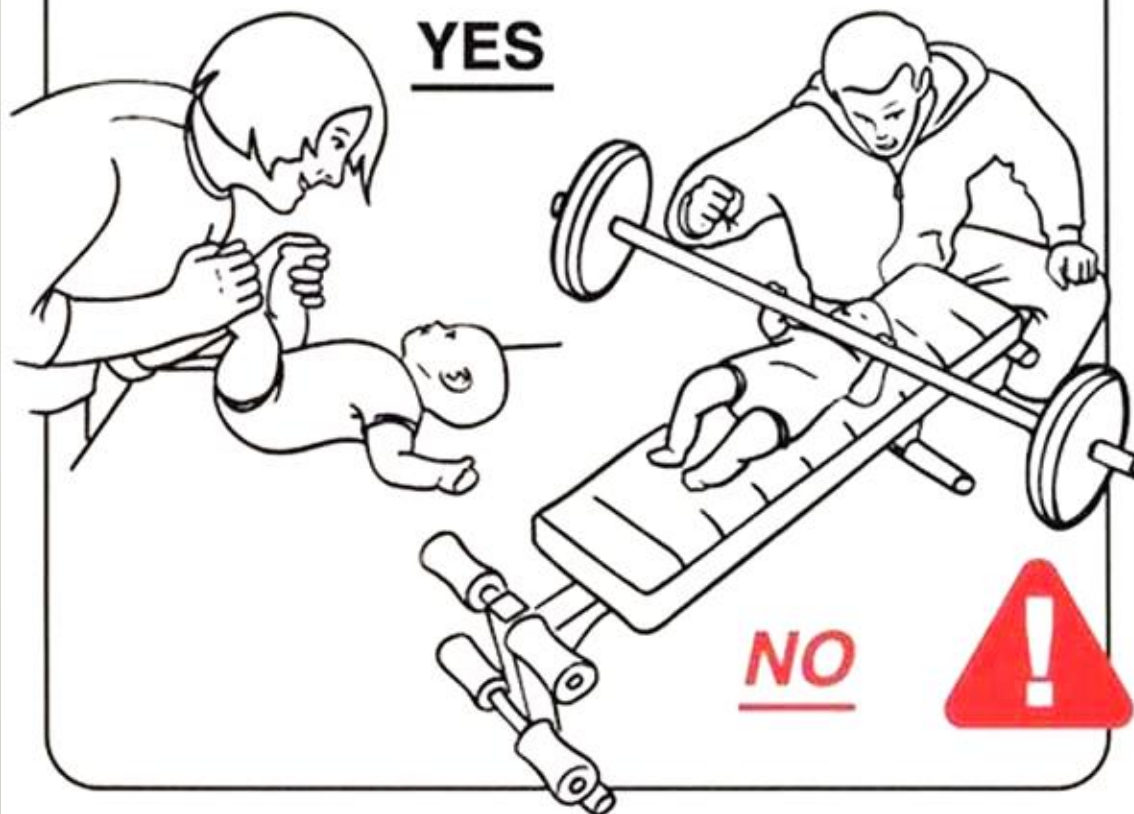
2 Timothy 3:14-15

This week's *practical baby advise* from...



Instructions:

Exercising Baby



Instructions:

Shopping with Baby

DO



DON'T



Instructions:

Containing Baby

YES



NO



What are the two most common methods of controlling a child's behavior?

Reward and Punishment

(a.k.a. Hope and Fear, or
“The Carrot and the Stick”)



Psychologists call this “*Operant Conditioning*”

- Positive and negative **reinforcement** to **increase** behavior
- Positive and negative **punishment** to **decrease** behavior

Basically, the “subject” is “taught” to behave a certain way when the “punisher” or “rewarder” is around. While seeming to work, it’s **temporary**, **not too effective**, and comes with **negative and long-lasting side effects**.

So close your eyes for a moment and imagine a **carrot** and a **stick**...

- What figure was central in your mind's eye?
- Most people think of a donkey or jackass



Jackasses: **Stubborn, stupid, willful, and disobedient.**
In other words, in need of manipulation and control.

Not a *loving, long-lasting, Christ-like* way to motivate kids!

Today's World

*“Today, there’s a strong emphasis on democracy. We’ve become **child-centered**. As soon as kids are able to comprehend, they start to pick up on the idea that all people—children and adults—are created equal. From preschool to high school and college, **children are taught that because they are equal, they have a right to speak up, even demand their rights.** Some children have even sued their parents for various reasons—and won.”* -Dr. Leman



13-year old sues parents for \$2M for being born with red hair
(Rochester, NY)

17-year old sues parents for \$250K for naming him Gaylord
(Kirksville, MO)



18-year old sues parents for posting her baby pictures on Facebook
(Carinthia, Austria)

Woman sues parents for \$2M for being “ugly”
(Hollywood, CA)

*“Both of my parents are so d*** ugly, it is simply cruel to have had kids. There is no way they should have been allowed to reproduce themselves.”*



Child sues parents who 'stole her nose'



POSTED BY: DAVID MARRS NOVEMBER 28, 2018

A young girl is suing her parents after they 'stole her nose', causing the child extreme emotional distress as well as other issues concerning her appearance.

Lily Paddington, 3, claims her parents yanked her nose right off her face and didn't give it back for over two minutes.

'It was my dad who stole my nose but my mum was there too and she did nothing to stop him. She just watched and laughed while I cried,' said Lily.

Lily has been left with mental scars as a result of the incident, including the need to check her nose is still on her face every minute of the day.

If kids believe they have as much authority as adults, **rewards and punishments simply won't work.**



So what will work?

1. **Encouragement**—it trumps reward.

2. **Discipline**—it trumps punishment.

If punishment really worked, you'd only need to do it once. Instead, kids think "All right, you win this round, but I'll get even. Just watch me!"

3. Avoid letting your kids to **manipulate** you.

4. *"Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it"* (Prov 22:6). **So train up, not down!**

5. If you **spank**, don't **overuse**, **misuse**, or **abuse**. And limit it to situations where your child repeatedly exhibits **the same dangerous behavior**.

6. Model **remorse** and **forgiveness**. An occasional *"I'm sorry. I blew it. Will you forgive me?"* goes a long way to helping kids say they're sorry.

"The bottom line with discipline is what a child does when the parents aren't there. As you train up children with loving discipline, their conscience develops in such a way that they're more likely to behave properly when you aren't there. As motivators for good behavior, reward and punishment don't help children development a healthy conscience."

Dr. Leman on birth order





FIRST BORN

perfectionist
achiever
leader
bossy
responsible
motivated
conscientious
controlling
cautious
reliable



MIDDLE BORN

adaptable
independent
go-between
people-pleaser
can be rebellious
feels left out
peacemaker
social



LAST BORN

social
charming
outgoing
uncomplicated
manipulative
seeks attention
self-centered
fun



THE ONLY CHILD

confident
conscientious
responsible
perfectionist
center of attention
mature for their age
seek approval
sensitive
leader

Of course, these are **stereotypes**. Temperament , gender, age gaps, adoption, blended families, and special needs can make big differences.

The powerful concept is **understanding your child's view of reality!**

10 Positive Ways to Discipline

D is for Distracting

I is for Investigating Needs & Feelings

S is for Structuring the Environment

C is for Consistency

I is for Instructing

P is for Playing & Connecting

L is for Limits

I is for Ignoring

N is for Noticing Positive Behaviour

E is for Excusing Self or the Child


One Time Through



World's greatest father,
My father is the greatest,
for you're the best,
caring, loving,
THE BEST!!!!
even when you discipline me,
I love you the same,

Love,
Holly x

Handwritten Father's Day card by Holly Leman, age 7



DIARY OF A MOM:
I'M NOT IGNORING
MY SON

I'M IGNORING THE
BEHAVIOR