

Introduction

The old-fashioned, traditional institution of spanking is not violent or abusive. While the anti-spanking lobby regularly misrepresents spanking by saying that it is indistinguishable from hitting / belting / giving a hiding or that it can escalate into over-the-top abuse, spanking is definitely not even on the same continuum; it is not even in the same ball park. This is because their motivations, aims, objectives, methodologies and outcomes are all completely different.



The Key to Spanking is LOVE!

Spanking In Brief

Who

Spanking is done by parents and anyone to whom the parents have delegated the responsibility of correcting, training or disciplining their child.

What

Spanking is an effective parenting tool for correcting a child's rebellious actions and attitudes from self-centredness, training him to do what is right and disciplining him to show respect for property and legitimate authority.

When

As soon as possible when the child manifests serious rebellion such as Disobedience, Dishonesty, Disrespect or Destructiveness.

Where

In private.

Why

Spanking is an expression of love, commitment and responsible parenting toward the child's best interests.

How

Spanking is smacking, discipline, chastisement or corporal correction. It may be the controlled, measured, purposeful and judicial use of reasonable force such as a stiff, flexible rod applied to the clothed buttocks or a parent's hand applied to the child's clothed buttocks or hand, forearm or leg. It is preceded, accompanied and followed by verbal instruction, reproof, affirmation and guidance, all within a context of loving, long-term parental commitment.

FAMILY INTEGRITY

A Working Definition of Spanking

Our Home...Our Castle



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By Craig Smith, 2004 ©

The Definition

Motivation

Spanking is motivated by the parents' love for the child and long-term commitment to his best interests over and above their own personal pleasure or convenience. It is further motivated by their desire to fulfil their parental duties and responsibilities toward their child, to train him up in social graces, discipline and self-control. Many Christians see it as part of their religious duty as stewards of the child, who does not belong to them or to the state but to God. (The motivation for violence and abuse is anger, frustration, vengeance or other unresolved issues in the abuser.)

Aim

Spanking's aim is to effectively deal with a child's rebellious actions and attitudes as soon as they manifest themselves in any of the four Ds: Disobedience, Dishonesty, Disrespect or Destructiveness. It is not aimed at a child's inevitable expressions of immaturity such as accidents, indiscretions, errors of judgment, irritating hyperactivity or being boisterous and silly. (The aim of abusive behaviour toward children is to vent the perpetrator's anger and frustration at the child's childishness as well as the child's rebelliousness.)

Objectives

Spanking's objectives are to correct a child's rebellious behaviour or attitude from being self-centred and to train him to do what is right and to discipline him to show respect for property and legitimate authority. (The objectives of the violent child abuser include getting his own back, punishing and/or humiliating the child, or saving face.)

Methodology

Effective spanking is done in the wider context of active, authoritative parental involvement plus loving and consistent verbal affirmation, admonition and training. Spanking is the controlled, measured, purposeful and judicial use of reasonable force in private to correct/train/discipline one's own child to conform to previously explained standards of behaviour and attitude. It is also called smacking, discipline, corporal chastisement or corporal correction. It may be a stiff, flexible rod applied to the clothed buttocks in private. It may be a parent's hand applied to the child's clothed buttocks or hand, forearm or leg. It is not belting, punching, hitting, beating, kicking or giving a hiding. (The methodology of vio-



Spanking... 'unlocked!'

lence is a wild card: it can be explosive, uncontrolled belting, hittings, kicks, etc., dished out arbitrarily with excessive duration and/or force, combined with verbal abuse, any time, any place.)

Outcomes

Consistent judicial spanking produces an ordered, disciplined and peaceful life. It restores relationships which have been ruptured by rebellion. It deals directly, head-on, with issues of rebellion as soon as they crop up. This progressively reduces both future manifestations of rebellion and also the need for future spankings. (The perpetrator of violence and abuse may assert his control over the child's immediate behaviour, but such irrational violence does breed more violence and only does harm to the parent/child relationship.)

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