

# The Oologah Informer

## September 27<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### Will you walk the three steps to Discipline? By Jack Williams

We hear much talk about discipline in the home, but often we miss out on what steps this really entails. Webster's Dictionary speaks of discipline as instruction or "study," "training that corrects and molds mental faculties or moral character" and "control gained by enforcing obedience or order." God emphasizes all of these aspects of discipline as a responsibility for parents, and if we are to have homes as He would have them, we must be willing to walk the three steps to proper discipline.

**Instruction** is the first step in the goal to bring about the proper "mental faculties" and "moral character." God commands us that His words "shall be in thine heart: And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up" (Deuteronomy 6:6-7).

**Training** is the next step in proper discipline. To do this we must be prepared to do as Ezra did when he "gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading" (Nehemiah 8:8). To truly mold our children, we need to enable them to make decisions based on sound and proper reasoning. Thus we must ourselves be prepared and patient enough to explain the proper (Bible) basis for our decision making in our instructions to them. This will prepare them to make the proper decisions themselves, and also to one day provide the same guidance for their children. Training entails not only explanation, but example. In 1 Kings 22, we read of king Ahaziah, the son of Ahab. We are told that "he did evil in the sight of the LORD, and walked in the way of his father, and in the way of his mother" (verse 52). Tragically we see young people today fall into terrible situations, only to find that they are following in the path of their parents. If we are to properly discipline our children, we should live so that we can say to them "be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ" (1 Corinthians 11:1; cf. 1 Timothy 1:5).

But of course we realize that even in the best of circumstances, there will be times in which children do not heed the instruction and training given them. It is then that enforcement or punishment, the third step and final step of discipline, is to be applied. The previous steps in discipline have been preventive while this final step is corrective. This part of discipline may find many forms such as lectures, restricting activities and privileges, or even corporal punishment (spanking). While there are foolish people who would have us believe that such corrective efforts will harm a child and are devoid of love, God has clearly told us that such measures must be done and are the actions of true love (Proverbs 13:24; Hebrews 12:6-7).

Homes and society today are in peril because of the lack of discipline and the resulting turmoil. Their only hope is if we will do

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#### Service Times

##### Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.  
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

##### Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

##### Preacher:

Russ Earl

##### AM Sermon:

Cain (Genesis 4:1-5)

##### PM Sermon:

What is Truth?

##### Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Proverbs – D. Jackson

##### Wednesday Bible Class:

Acts 3 – V. Smith

##### In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB-47  
Sunday mornings at 7:30 am

##### Oologah Internet Radio Programs

Russ' Program on Friday's @ 8am &  
8pm

Vance' Program on Wednesdays  
@ 6:30pm & Thursdays @ 6:30am

LIVE broadcast on Mondays @  
4:30pm

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[www.oologahradio.org](http://www.oologahradio.org) for more info.

our part to correct this by being willing to take the God given steps of proper discipline. Let's love God and keep his commandments (John 14:15) — our homes will be blessed by it!