

Summary Questions and Analysis Related to Paideia Part 1

God's plan for bringing a child to an objective hearing of the Gospel includes the imputation of plenipotentiary power and authority to parents whose job it is to bring the child's sinful nature under control and make him submissive to their policies.

It is absolutely necessary that children learn that wrong thoughts, decisions, and actions produce pain and suffering. The ultimate penalty for wrong decision is eternal pain and suffering in the Lake of Fire because of rejection of Jesus as the Christ.

Parental guidance, discipline, rebuke, punishment, goading, and chastisement puts the child's sinful nature under parental control and orients the child's soul to their authority. Compliance with parental authority first occurs under the principle of enforced humility and ultimately under genuine humility.

Parents may be reluctant to use corporal punishment on their child because of their tendency to never physically harm their child. But their timidity is tempered by the knowledge that their child's pain and suffering will reach maximum intensity and persist for all eternity in the Lake of Fire if he is unable to respond positively at Gospel hearing. And so, with a view toward the child's salvation, and his submission to divine power and biblical authority, they must suppress his rebellion toward their policies.

There is a word which is a derivative of paideia, another noun, *paidagogos*. This word refers to a Greek slave whose duty it was to train a child in principles of good manners, deportment, morals, and physical health.

Whenever the child was rebellious toward his instructions in these areas, the pedagogue would chastise the child with the rod. This form of discipline is known by the word *paideia*.

Parents are assigned the duties of the *paidagogos*. Their plenipotentiary power and authority is expressed in their enforcement of policies designed to bring the child's sinful nature under control.

In effect the pedagogue is not the parents but their policies which are to be based upon biblical principles of establishment. The child must constantly be told that these principles are what God wants him to do and if he does not comply then they have no choice but to chastise him. They must also communicate that God's required discipline toward his rebellion is for them to take a rod and strike him on his backside until he agrees that he is wrong and the parents and God are right.

The use of the rod depersonalizes the pain and suffering which the child does not associate with the parent but with the rod. Although the parents express displeasure with the child's rebellion, they are seen by the child as the enforcer of God's policies.

The principle is developed that the parents are under the power and authority of God and must do what they are told to do, thus the child learns to orient to God's wishes as well. Even though the child is an unbeliever, spiritual principles can be enforced under parental policy which they inform the child is established upon God's Word. Thus, the Bible emerges as the rule book for correct thought, decision, and action.

Paul compares the duties of the pedagogue with that of the Mosaic Law in Galatians 3:23-Galatians 4:5. The Law serves as an unbeliever's spiritual parent. It demands compliance with strict principles which establish divine righteousness.

When these righteous standards are not met then God imposes pain and suffering through the administration of divine discipline or the pain and suffering of "chastisement."

The objective of the Law is to convince the unbeliever that he cannot keep its requirements and thus the person must admit that he is hopelessly lost in his sins. Burdened by a lifetime of pain and suffering, the unbeliever reaches a point of objectivity where he is receptive to the presentation of a solution.

The solution is found in the Gospel of Jesus Christ. If parents have performed their due diligence, then their child will at least give the Gospel an objective hearing. Why? Because up to that point every time they have violated parental policy it has resulted in pain and suffering.

If parental policies are founded on biblical principles, then the child will associate those policies with God's desire. The Gospel is the means of salvation presented by the Bible and expresses what God wants the unbeliever to do in order to be saved.

When the child is trained to orient to God's imperative moods and learns that doing so brings blessings and reward, then he will more likely respond positively at Gospel hearing. The goal of parents is to perform their due diligence as pedagogue/enforcers so that their child's volition is capable of granting the Gospel an objective hearing.

Francis, Samuel. "Victims of Blunt Force Trauma." *Chronicles*. Nov. 1995, pp. 8-9.

When the child responds to the Gospel then he is adopted into the royal family, is elected into the plan of God, and granted the assets for fulfilling that plan.

It is important for parents to realize that God knew in eternity past whether or not their child would believe in Christ. Because of God's omniscience, He was able to determine in eternity past who among the human race would believe and who would not. The few who believe, God classified as the elect. He decreed to place them into His perfect plan designed to resolve the Angelic Conflict and bring glory to Him.

He also decreed to grant them all the necessary assets required to fulfill that plan. Although God knew about every believer's positive decision toward Christ, He in no way manipulated, controlled, or coerced that decision—He simply knew.

Although the elect, due to the function of their free will were foreknown, they were not predetermined. However, the plan was predetermined since it was sovereignly decreed. Remember the definition of Divine Decrees:

"The decree of God is His eternal, holy, wise, and sovereign purpose, comprehending at once all things that ever were or will be—in their causes, courses, conditions, successions, and relations—and determining their certain futurity."

What is comprehended is "all things that ever were or will be." This is the analytic process of distinguishing those thoughts, decisions, and actions which actually occur in human history and those which do not.