

THE DISCIPLINES OF GOD

*a study in the goodness of a loving Father teaching, training, and guiding the lives of
the children He loves.*

Valley Bible Chapel

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I. General Introduction: The Family of God....Hebrews 12:1-15

A. The family of God consists of those who are born into it through faith in the Lord Jesus. In this regard all who believe are designated as the sons of God--children of God. (1 John 3:1). The basic facts are these:

1. The family is essentially spiritual
2. It is entered by the new birth (1 Peter 1:23)
3. It is given identity by the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 1:13)
4. It is recognized by the Lord Jesus (Hebrews 2:13)

The family consists of weak and strong members (Romans 14), growing and static members (Hebrews 5), consecrated and carnal members (1 Corinthians 3) and all with various skills, gifts and great diversities in personality! This is a fascinating subject in itself but, unfortunately, it is not the topic of present interest.

B. As a general description of the family we may say these things.

1. All members are gifted
2. All are loved
3. All have access to the Father, etc.
4. All have individualized status
5. All have spiritual privileges in common
6. All have a common charge in relation to the Lord
7. All are instructed to obey
8. And all are under the same disciplines of God.

C. The challenge in Hebrews 12 to the members of the family is developed on these lines:

1. Prepare to live (v. 1)
2. Keep your attention on the Lord Jesus (v 2-3)
3. Do not exaggerate your problems (v.4)
4. Remember the Father disciplines us for our good (v. 5-10)
5. Watch for the training purposes in discipline (v 11)
6. And, therefore, walk appropriately (v 12-15)