

## Domestic Discipline of a Wife?

### Responsible Authority and the Discipline Issue Within the Context of a Christian Marriage

By: 1Z

#### Introduction and definitions

There is a “non-modern” teaching that you may have heard of - what might be called the accountability and “proactive love” model of marriage .It is the controversial viewpoint that a loving Christian husband will use his authority and headship in a marriage in a very proactive, non-passive way to help his wife grow and mature. She is expected to submit, and he is to love and protect her - both following the roles that conservative Christians often at least in general agree upon.

While that seems basically similar to a hard-line conservative Christian position, what makes this model unique is that the husband, in order to love, has decided to use what might be called “God mirroring”; or “practical godliness” - in other words, a following of (what this position considers as) God's methods of how He uses authority, and how God expects and tells mere humans to carry out their delegated authority.

This leads to a belief in limited physical discipline (God's chastising, such as in Hebrews 12 and Proverbs) to lovingly keep his wife accountable to his authority under God. In these relationships, the wife at times wants the relationship to be this way, feeling that the husband is showing practical love when he corrects her for sinful habits or other things. In testimonies of followers of this belief, sometimes it is the wives who wish to have, and continue, a relationship with the husband in authority. She wants to be submitted,, and so obeying means allowing discipline (but is distinctly and clearly contrasted to abuse in this view, since anything God does and approves of cannot be abusive by default in this view- at least without calling God abusive and all child discipline abusive).

#### Discipline?

This concept is not based on hitting, fighting, or BDSM, and in fact is potentially to help avoid improper male aggression and abusiveness of that sort. Instead, the husband has the right (within certain parameters and safety issues) to use Biblical chastising - arguing that it cannot be abuse since God gives merit to human leaders using discipline in the outwork of authority. If authority exists at all, the DD reasoning goes, it must have consequences to be genuine and not merely a sham. The limited discipline could be compared to spanking a wayward child, which both sides of this debate often admit is not considered abusive in many Christian families. Keep in mind that this is all in the context of a Christian Marriage. In fact, pastors are involved with this concept. It is hard to judge how common this is, given the fear of being laughed at or judged if others find out that this is your conviction.

A woman is to grow and blossom into a strong, vibrant, free and joyful woman of God! But some wives seem caught in destructive habits and attitude problems and other things that leave them weaker than they need to be. For believers in Responsible Authority, at least part of the blame might be placed on not understanding God's method of producing such 'peaceable fruit' (Hebrews 12 - chastising) in a woman's life. The husband is to 'tend his garden' in love with prayer, loving her enough to help her change in the Christian Responsible Authority position.

Passivity in a man is a denial of manhood - he is called to love her like Christ loves the church, and he cannot do that if he simply allows her to hurt herself while he has the authority (and therefore the responsibility) to step in and help love her through the areas of growth needed. Responsible Authority believers might further feel that this was simply a given in earlier cultures, and that they merely are in this view trying to go back to God's standards and Biblical norms and fight the culture which tries to “mold our minds” (Romans 12: 2). So this debate would not have

been an issue had not feminism equated “authority's consequences” with “abuse”. Like Christians fighting against abortion, a DD could point to the past and say “that is what God's way looked like, and the new way is abusive of women, leaving them without God's loving wisdom on how to help her flourish as a woman of God.

The accountability and “proactive love” model of marriage is certainly not mainstream! It is certainly controversial. There is at least one Christian forum on the topic on the web, but overall some are probably too embarrassed in this culture for the adherents to be to open about it. Therefore the Biblical questions around this issue are often not even asked, let alone an attempt to answer them. In fact, most people won't even bother with the issues, preferring to simply assume a position based on their background or emotional beliefs fed by the culture they grew up in (some AGAINST Responsible Authority, and some FOR it.) But in both cases that leaves the Bible out of the picture, replaced with mere human emotions.

In this article, I am going to attempt to define several different viewpoints on this issue and take a good solid look at the Bible to see what conclusions, if any, can be found. I especially want to make sure to uncover what CAN be given as official Biblical doctrine (doctrine: commands, sins, truths) and what cannot be given as doctrine (disputable matters, matters that are situational in nature). This will answer questions such as “Is it sin?” or “If it is not sin, does it fall under personal conscience?” or “If they are correct, MUST I and my spouse do this?” or “They are absolutely wrong, but is the choice a 'disputable matter' that I am forbidden to judge them over per Romans 14”. And since it is unfair to lump everyone into the same basket, I plan to mention different viewpoints/positions within people who in general believe in wife submission plus spanking. NOR should it be wrongly confused with wild alternate lifestyles such as BDSM and torture and other such stuff – “Responsible Authority” is a different concept, but can be easily confused with other viewpoints -- making it “guilty by association”. Unfortunately for Responsible Authority believers, this viewpoint is generally called “Domestic Discipline” and is often shortened to its initials 'DD.' This is just too close to “BDSM” and doesn't help things. And evil websites sell pictures called “DD” that are BDSM in nature. However, I will use the abbreviation “DD” anyway as a convenient shortcut. It is, after all, the normal name for it.(Father God, please help me to write this by your grace and in your truth. And may you be enthroned over this issue, and your Word uplifted and emotions humbled on all sides. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen.)

Let's get started! The arguments below assume that you are a Christian and that you believe that the Bible is God's inspired word in accordance with 11 Timothy 3. 16. I contend that if you do NOT believe that, then arguments for or against Discipline are immaterial since there would be no real way to find objective truth. Your definition of abuse, etc., would probably be whatever the changing culture can tolerate, for example. I will debate for the spanking side. Even if that position is NOT correct, this paper should be quite useful in over-viewing the arguments. Please don't let that offend you - rather, go along with it and engage your mind and your faith in God's word to test that side's viewpoint. It is better to think and pray over an issue than it is to get needlessly emotional. Effort is sometimes needed to rightly divide the word of Truth and carefully pick through arguments. Beware choosing EITHER side on mere emotional first impressions. Some would be horrified at the concept of spanking, while others might have a desire for clear accountability and real submission even if it means discipline. And in fact some cultures are more open to this - one example I read of was of a Chinese man who grew up in a home with his mother disciplined and seems to have accepted it as normal. We need to renew our minds first, and emotions that are correct FOLLOW that. Until our mind is renewed we cannot trust our emotions 100% since they ARE at times wrong. Some people will be lost forever because Jesus did not “feel” right. Christians sometimes do blatant evil because it “felt” like it was ok. Be careful!

Side note on this: In ANY area of life, we can have a tendency to go straight FROM a first impression TO a final evaluation. Instead, God desires us to hold the first impression weakly if at all, then TEST the issue with the Bible and other means, and THEN choose by our wills (not our emotions) a final conclusion. Emotions can play a large part in such an evaluation - but should not be the deciding factor in most issues. Being led by emotions ungoverned by a desire for truth

is not wise. If you read a little of this paper, come to a conclusion, and never finish it or pray over it you are only setting yourself up for being deceived, either in this area or in FAR more important ones. Emotional decisions creating faith convictions is a bad habit to allow in a life! Yet we all can be tempted to take the easy way out, especially when our emotions scream that they already HAVE perfect understanding of an issue. You will probably be very surprised at the arguments. I am confident that many people have NOT heard these arguments, unless they are already involved with DD. That should keep the paper fresh and interesting, and make it thought-provoking.

Many of the pro-DD arguments are based on things like love, gentle concern and Biblical truth. And even the arguments against this position (Freedom before God, Grace verses Law, be gentle in all you do) can surprisingly be turned around for arguing for the discipline of an entire household and not just the children. And the whole concept of "discipline children" is very hard to support Biblically (authority's discipline is never specifically limited to children), making things even more interesting. It is not as simple of an issue as it sounds. This paper - even if DD's are utterly wrong - will almost certainly give you much, much food for thought on issues of love, sanctification, freedom (does freedom contradict rules?) and other issues. It could also provoke you to NON-spanking ways that married men should be 'actively responsible' such as praying for their wives, helping to set a positive God-centered tone for the family, and gentle understanding of a wife's needs.

DEFINITIONS (please read carefully):

DD = Domestic Discipline. Within the CHRISTIAN context it refers to a belief that the husband is to be submitted and under authority to God, and the family (wife, kids) are in turn under the husband's authority. What separates DD from simply being common Ni conservative Christian belief is that DD further holds that authority inherently includes the ability to take action (limited forms of guarded discipline within parameters, and limited commands). Authority implies a power to influence and motivate those under your authority - evaluating them can lead to positive or negative consequences. Authority without the ability to create consequences is a denial of the very concept of authority. There should be general guidelines so that things remain safe and proper, AND there are other authorities (police, government, church) that place safety balances on the husband's ability. A Sergeant that cannot command a private under him isn't really a Sergeant. Authority without ability is merely a hoax. Or worse, it is a satanic lie to undermine God's chain of command and loving wisdom.

Responsible Authority = another name I used above instead of DD. Again, the viewpoint is that the man is responsible before God to lead his wife, and has the authority to act upon his wife and not merely "suggest changes". DD sounds too close to BDSM and that is NOT the concept we are dealing with here. But because it is shorter, I'll generally use DD anyway.

BDSM = Bondage, sadism, etc. - erotic power plays and pain. This is general NOT what DD is referring to, but it can easily be confused because of spanking and people being wrongly referred to as "dominants" and "submissives". DD is NOT about master/slave relationships. This is confusing DD with BDSM. DD is about equal partners with different roles and responsibilities before God. Strangly, this viewpoint actually places more to do before God on the husband's side than the wife's. Neither is a slave to the other, but are co-heirs with Christ and of great dignity but different jobs.

Vanilla = someone new to the DD lifestyle, a newbie. Usage: "My husband and I were vanilla, but after a while we got used to obeying God radically in this area and have enjoyed the benefits of it."

Abuse = in DD terms, it generally would mean any non-spanking hitting or harm. For example, a Christian parent may feel ok to spank their child - but would NEVER wish to slap, hit or in any other way hurt the individual! Discipline is FOR the person's ultimate good, while abuse is to harm

the person. That is perhaps why DD wives can be very clear that they do not see discipline as abusive - like many things in life, it is a short unpleasant thing with a positive purpose (like a runner who forces their body when tired, or a mother giving birth).

Erotic pain (verses discipline's pain) = erotic pain, like in BDSM. For fun and for sexual reasons. I will NOT be dealing with the issue of whether that is right or wrong here. It is not the point. DD is basically NOT about gaining sexual fun, but instead gaining loving homes where power struggles, a wife's insecurities, a husband's passivity and manipulative games are (imperfectly) replaced with love, respect and calm gentleness.

By the way, if you ever read forum posts by DD wives you may be in for an eye-opening experience. Right or wrong, some women testify of how they would never want to go back to their pre-DD lifestyles simply because now they feel loved and the war is over. And how they don't necessarily like discipline but like the results in their lives and marriages. Their statements can be quite interesting if you are not used to this viewpoint and the benefits that these DD women claim to be gaining.

Still can't believe there even COULD be arguments for such a thing? Right or wrong, here are quite a few. I will BUILD issue upon issue, so please take the time to prayerfully go through each section in order. In that way you will be able to evaluate Domestic Discipline's logic flow and see how the puzzle pieces fit. And a fictional example in a later section will pull together ideas from before and will be something worth serious reflection - don't give up on reading too soon to get to the "payoff" of having it fit together. Even if DD is ABSOLUTELY wrong you may find the fictional example worthy of prayer and reflection in your time before God Most High.

I will use a question and answer format,, where I (as a fictional questioner) pose a question and then (as a DD supporter) answer it. Please do NOT jump to later questions! Take the time to read this, please, so that you have the whole picture. Later questions may be based on issues discussed in earlier ones, for example,, or assume you have read all that is before it.

QUESTION # 1 - Does a man have authority over his wife in the first place?(This is a KEY issue, and so this part is a bit long. But it is an important foundation for the rest. Please don't skim!)

The DD's side overall would it seems say "yes". Although some couples just might be into DD in order to have what are seen as major benefits of that non-traditional lifestyle, others are sincere Christians who are trying to obey God. I went to a forum on this topic - some DD's are pastors of churches. A conviction that the Bible is true, and a willingness to "mold their mind" to the Bible and challenge traditions of men and culture can be a reason to become a DD. Back to the question - yes. There are several passages in Scripture that clearly indicate that God sets up lines of authority that we must follow. If a Marine disobeys the captain's clear order, he or she is also disobeying the General, the president, and ultimately the entire authority of the Marines. Before I look briefly at some passages, there is a strong warning that I need to give first: Be careful here - there is a tendency for some to 'muddy the waters' by adding other issues to this question. For example, whether a woman should be "silent" in a church or not has no bearing whatsoever on whether she is under her husband's authority. NEITHER does the question of whether she can be a woman pastor. These "smokescreen" topics are not to be used to neglect what God states about authority in the marriage relationship.

Beware anyone who tries to "fix" the verses on authority with verses that don't really have a direct bearing on the marriage relationship. A starting point: Here's one section of Scripture on wives submitting: Now then, what did God mean when He told us: "Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands,...." I Peter 3: 1 ... the holy women who trusted in God also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror." (I Peter 3: 5-6). First, notice the 'likewise' in chapter 3, verse 1. It refers to chapter 2, where God gives submission again and again. EVERYONE is to submit to "kings" and "governors" who are to punish evildoers

according to I Peter 2: 13. Then servants are dealt with and told to also be submissive and under God's will for themselves. Then in verse 25 - immediately before the wife verse - he speaks of Jesus as the 'Overseer' of our souls. In other words, God simply inspires Peter to bluntly tell people to submit to (obey) the authority that He had allowed or placed over them. And that these is a line of authority that runs to God. Therefore to disobey a government is to disobey God, UNLESS the government steps outside of it's authority by commanding sin. After this is spoken of, the Bible pulls it all back to Jesus our Oversees (top authority).

Then he immediately deals with wives. There is no IF statements in the wife verse that would allow her to wiggle out of it, just as there are no if statements in the commands that husbands are to obey either.. Nor does God say that the wives need NOT submit after AD 1000. There is nothing conditional about verse one above - God tells us that Jesus is our Overseer, and immediately follows that with a command to the wives. Generally people try to get around these verses by claiming it was just their culture. But that makes God out to be a poor communicator, forgetting to tell us that the rules have changed. Personally I think you need more than wishful thinking and a "guess" that it was cultural. How can you give as a guess? God does not call it cultural, and we can trust God that He would make that clear if so, especially in the case of such blunt commands. Jesus being our overseer - was THAT cultural? It's 5 words away from NN "wives"! If the wife verse were no longer valid, why would the immediately proceeding Overseer verse be still valid? After all, they are connected. Because Jesus is overseer wives are to submit. The word "likewise" connects the two chapters.

See the flow? Submit to kings ... submit ... Jesus is Overseer ... wives submit ...I have heard of the commands to servants being second-guessed. "Oh, if he were alive NOW he would have written differently". But isn't it strange to think that servant in the last 500 years are to get different rules to live by before God than all those that came before? Did God forget something the first time? Servants ARE to submit - not because servitude is right, but simply because it is wise to do so, and being under authority leaves the servant walking well with God. The master is responsible for what he or she does to a servant, and after this "blink of an eye" life is over they have all eternity to live in the consequences of their decisions. The servants God speaks of in I Peter died about 2,000 years ago - and so did their masters. We need to have an eternal perspective and trust in God's wisdom above our own understanding (Proverbs 3: 5-6).In an ETERNAL perspective, the servant is actually called God's 'free man' and free people are called figuratively God's slaves. Free people are accountable to God for their freedom, while not as much is expected of servants and slaves - they don't have the opportunity to do much.) Again, slavery is wrong. But God knew the best way for people to survive it with dignity, virtuous character, and an eternal reward for well doing in the face of hardships. He commanded submission, not because slavery was right, but because they needed to walk in faith and godly character, and not be self-seeking like the world! BUT God also says elsewhere that if you have the chance to be free - take it! God's wisdom is not always simplistic, but it is eternally wise.

Actually God purposefully attacked the idea of seeing wife submission as cultural. But you may have missed it in the verses above. Let's look at it again: In Peter's day, Rome ruled, Israel was and had been a nation for a long time; the Law had been given to Moses and so forth. That was their culture. Peter wrote to THAT culture, BUT tells them that the rules and wisdom of ABRAHAM'S (Pre-Moses, pre-Law,, pre-Rome) culture still Did you see it? (Reread sections of vs. 4-5, above.)These women live in a time FAR after Moses, after the giving of the Law, after the birth of Israel, after David and Solomon, after the first Temple, after the Roman occupation. And yet here God is telling them to look to godly examples BEFORE the Law, before Israel itself, and still follow those rules. How could submission be a CULTURAL thing if God calls them to look OUTSIDE of their culture to follow principles shown in a previous culture? Go to the pre-Israel culture, and learn from a saint. Culture doesn't matter - the fact that Sarah and others walked in God's way is what counts! Learn from their example, regardless of your culture. In other words, God had made His will clear. Each generation is simply to ignore their present culture and seek God's ways.

BY THE WAY, I find it humorous that people try desperately to make THESE clear verses only cultural, while the NEXT verses (concerning husband's role) is still supposed to be followed! How can you hold to the husband's role as still valid, but deny the wife's role given immediately before it? Here is the husband's role (still in effect most would agree?) Notice the "likewise" here also - God even TIES the male part to women submitting;...being submissive to their own husbands, as Sarah obeyed Abraham. And the NEXT verse: "Husbands, likewise, dwell with them with understanding, giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel [physical strength, probably], and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered." (1 Peter 3: 7) I have NEVER heard someone say that the "hindered prayers" part was merely cultural and ended 2000 years ago or so. And even very liberal preachers will tell the men to "live in understanding" and to give her honor. And yet it is directly connected with wives being submissive to their husbands.

Quick note: Submission is submission: God tells us all to submit to HIM. I doubt that any Jew would have thought to say to God "I didn't obey you, but I was submitting even so!" It is a contradiction in terms, and an obvious one at that. Submit meant to fall under rank and obey. A command to obey is a specific command - "do this" - while submission is a pre-determined choice to obey future "do this" commands. "Submit" means to allow the other person the right to command in the future. It is a placing of someone "under rank". God tells wives to submit to their husbands. Strangely, some people insist on creating a "new" definition of "submission" to get around this.

The correct definition: "This person has authority over me, so as long as it is not sin before God, I am expected to obey and really need to do so to please God". This definition might be "tolerated" by some when referring to God, the king, rulers, or such. BUT a second definition mysteriously appears when dealing with wives. The same word is given a new definition: "I should give some honor to this person, but I am to decide what to do and do not need to obey. In fact, if he COMMANDS me he is already in the wrong!" This definition is so prevalent that, although the BIBLE is clear as to what submit means, you can now find modern false definitions even in a dictionary. But how can a word be given a new definition after being understood one way for thousands of years? This new definition is actually the opposite of submission! Would you use that last definition when referring to submitting to GOD? Of course not. The word "submit" cannot be simply redefined because a person does not want to obey its original meaning. And yet when referring to wives, people call such disobedience "submission".

Read the above verses again - the wife is to see Jesus as her overseer (ruler) and based on that is to submit in the same way you are to obey a law of government or a rule of your employer. But then again, in this age we have become so used to rebellion that even those commands are routinely ignored. More on this in a later section of the paper, toward the end. Whether discipline of a wife is right or wrong, arguments against the authority of a husband tend to be quite absurd. BUT if authority is true, much of the rest of the DD belief system falls into place (more later). More verses commanding a wife to submit to her husband. - "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church, and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her... (Ephesians 5: 22-25

) I challenge you to reread those verses carefully. Notice the following: HOW are wives to submit? In the same way they submit to the Lord. (So much for that second definition given for submission.) "as to the Lord". So, does a person have to "submit" (obey) Jesus? Or not? Who is the head? The husband is. And what this means is clear in CONTEXT - as Jesus is the head of the church, the ruler, so the man is in authority and is to rule. I have heard it argued that "head" does not refer to the ruler-ship, but in the context of this and the next chapter, it makes no sense at all to try to redefine "head" as something else just to get around the plain call for wives to obey. God says, "submit" and then (why submit?) For that man is your head. The church is to be "SUBJECT"; to Christ, as head, and just as this is to happen, is a wife to be subject. After. all the

attempts to redefine submission, here God tells us that the church is SUBJECT to Jesus (ie He is in authority and we must obey) and that wives are to be subject to their husbands in the same way, in "everything". Clear, blunt, plain. These verses really aren't that hard to understand as long as someone does not come to the verses with a heart desiring to change their meaning. THEREFORE-noticethis-JUST AS-SO LET THE WIVES. In other words, to argue that a wife need not obey, you must further argue that the church need not obey Jesus. Jesus becomes a figurehead, not a king. They are connected - as Jesus rules the church, husbands rule their wives. 'Husbands love...'- again notice that people accept the MAN'S part without any problem usually, even when denying the immediately prior direct statement of the women's role. Deny one, and you need to deny them all. ANYWAY, enough on the authority issue. If you still need proof of a woman's role,, reread the above and pray hard. And check yourself - are you having trouble placing faith in those verses? And if so, is it honest un-sureness, or do you "want" them to mean something else? May God bless all honest attempts to understand His Word.

QUESTION #2: Isn't disciplining (spanking) a wife abusive?

That depends on how you define "abuse". Some people in this culture see even spanking children as abusive. Taking kids to church might be seen as 'abusive' to some people, since some may see religion as abusive to children. So letting the culture define what is abusive is dangerous and unwise. Since culture obviously cannot be trusted to give God's definition of what is abusive, we need to go to the Bible to find out what God considers abusive and what He does not,, and set our convictions there. Biblically, giving physical discipline and the pain involved is NOT seen as abusive, but is actually commended and pointed to as a very wise thing to do. LACK of giving pain can in fact be abusive in some cases,

Biblically. Let's look at this a bit. In the Bible, spanking a CHILD is not abusive (Prov. 13:24). (Although a wife is an ADULT, this becomes important later in this section.) And in fact God rebukes the father who does NOT give the child pain. In Hebrews 12: 5-11 God tells us that He treats us the same way - loving His children, Christians, enough to correct us. You may want to read that section, noting words such as "chastening", "scourges", and "pain". God reminds them of what good fathers do (physical pain) and then God makes it clear that (1) they were right to do so and (2) that God is a good parent who uses the same basic method even though it is generally spiritual in nature.

God bluntly tells us in clear terms that chastisement (the giving of redemptive, corrective pain) is not abusive in and of itself. This is in contrast to torture and physical abuse,, done not to correct and better but to hurt and destroy. In Proverbs 10: 13b (But a rod is for the back of him who is devoid of understanding.) God clearly states that the rod (physical pain given by the God-given authority) is supposed to be given to those that "lack understanding". Therefore, based on this clear statement of Scripture, the rod (physical discipline) is NOT abusive but redemptive and good and honorable in God's sight. Notice that the verse does NOT limit this to a government at all - it simply gives God's view "a rod is for the back". God states a general principle that pain is supposed to be used by authority for correction. There is a general principle here, utterly proving that, in general, giving a person pain as discipline (not torture) cannot be called "abuse" Biblically. I will get into how to use this verse carefully a little bit later.

Proverbs 26: 3 also states that some people are (like dumb animals) in need of correction. It compares the fool to a horse and donkey - for an authority figure to rule properly, he must make his horse trot, make his mule carry a burden, and give the "fool" motivation to also do what is right. Again, limited, proper giving of pain is the responsibility and right of authority. NOTE: I am NOT calling anyone a fool! This verse dealt with someone God calls a fool, and the previous verse dealt with those that lack understanding. A Christian wife may occasionally act foolishly (we all do) or lack understanding in an area (as don't we all) but she is neither a bonafide "fool" nor "devoid" of understanding. My point is NOT that these are to be seen as DIRECTLY referring to discipline of a household, BUT that they clearly show that DISCIPLINE and ABUSE are NOT the same in God's eyes.

Discipline is godly, honorable, commendable. Abuse is horrible sin. And yet people falsely call discipline "abuse" in spite of God's own statements to the contrary. God clearly expects authorities to rule, and sometimes discipline is a part of wise leadership. The principle remains valid. After all, we all do foolish; things and therefore temporarily find ourselves in a place of needing discipline (whether of God or of man). This KILLS the idea of calling DD abusive. Since God HIMSELF will not call authorities giving pain abusive ... and since He Himself uses that method ... and points to 5 that method ... and commends that method and wants others to use the same method ... THEN to call DD abusive is to call God abusive and His wise ways wrong. (Reread.)

Disciplining a wife is simply men looking to God for God's example on how to properly walk out authority. Since God ties authority with discipline, it is wise for a husband to desire to use God's own method of responsibly using authority. Just guessing what authority should look like and do depending on the culture's (sometimes satanic) viewpoint at the time is not wise. Authority is never supposed to be a passive thing, or merely a "final decision is yours" right. Disobedience to authority can have redemptive consequences. Why was Jerusalem destroyed? Why was Sodom destroyed? Why did Ananias and his wife fall over dead? What of God stating that he was disciplining to the point of DEATH some Corinthian believers who were not walking well? Why has God used armies and problems to chastise people and nations? The Babylonian captivity was NOT an accident! Yes, some things just happen because God "allows" it to happen. But God also TELLS us that He ACTIVELY causes many things to happen. Get used to it - God is ACTIVE in spite of the wimpy view of God some seem to have.

Even Jesus spoke of disciplining those servants who knew to do good but who didn't - with many stripes. Did Jesus compare Himself to an abusive man?? NO! Jesus knew that authority had the right to discipline, and that He would have every right to do such a thing. And no one else corrected Jesus Christ's theology either! He was painting a picture of what authority has the right to do, and they understood that. Our culture was BIRTHED in a revolutionary war (rebellion) and hates authority and any "bite" to it in our personal lives. Thus the natural mind's war against God's authority is reinforced in this culture of ours. God uses painful circumstances and discipline for a redemptive end. And husbands are to grow to be more like God's character of love, more "godly", and have that same heart of active, moving, long-term profitable love. In other words, husbands are to grow CLOSER to God's revealed model of discipline when in responsibility, NOT farther from it like the culture teaches! Men are to forsake the short-sighted love without wisdom that many settle for. Instead, choose love combined with God's wisdom for building a good life.

Think this through: Is it abusive to spank a child or to discipline an adult with pain? Yes or no? If you say, "YES, it is abusive", then God is found to be wrong every time He expects it and any time God speaks of such a thing. If you say "no" then you are ADMITTING that discipline itself is not abuse! Remember, discipline was of the FAMILY. The idea that you ONLY discipline a CHILD is an interesting invention, but has no merit Biblically. But it has great EMOTIONAL weight,, perhaps, in some hearts. I know of not ONE verse that ever implies that ONLY children are to be disciplined. A wife and a child are both under the husband's authority, and therefore both are under the "rod"; that the authority inherently has. It seems to be merely a modern myth.

Perhaps people saw MISUSES of authority's rod and went too far in the other direction to correct the problem. But MISUSE of a concept cannot REMOVE the concept!! Some police are corrupt - but that doesn't mean we should remove all policemen. Even if some evil husbands went too far, that does not mean that God's ways are therefore invalid. God wanted a husband's rod of authority to be IN BALANCE with the church and with the government - the idea was to have SAFEGUARDS, not deny the rod altogether!! Interesting sidenote - the "rule of thumb" was just such a balance. A man in English common law was in authority, which by definition meant that he had the right to use the rod of discipline. So the government choose to put a BOUNDARY on that right - you could only use a rod that was as thin as your thumb. You can cringe at the crudeness of it in our modern times, and maybe say that it didn't go far enough, but



at least it was an attempt to both uphold God's lines of authority AND protect women. Delegated authority without delegated power is an empty shell and a deception. In Hebrews 12, God speaks bluntly of giving Christians painful discipline at times to grow us up. Calling the giving of pain 'abusive' would therefore make God HIMSELF abusive! Obviously that is not the case - God DIED for us and loves us! It is His LOVE that causes Him to give us pain to train us. I HAVE THEREFORE PROVEN that physical discipline is not in and of itself abusive when done by authority. I have NOT yet dealt with this in the context of marriage (later). BUT the general principle of physical discipline in no way it can be 'abusive' if God Himself sets physical pain (the rod) as a proper and godly way for authority to deal with unruliness (un - rule - ness). That is the basic idea behind DD - that women are given a loving man to be accountable to, and that women benefit greatly over time as their husband holds them accountable to a high standard of behavior. I plan to deal with this issue later. Trust God - HE does not think that limited pain is abusive (given NOT as hateful torture but as redemptive or as short-term punishment). His wisdom is RIGHT,, regardless of the fact that the culture may have trained our emotions to scream 'abuse' in direct opposition to God. Bring every thought captive to Jesus Christ. [SIDE NOTE. Torture and abuse are created AGAINST a person, to harm them. Discipline is created FOR a person, to love and help correct them. The heart attitude is miles apart, as is the final outcome when a woman accepts and allows her husband to love her enough to hold her accountable. These two things can be falsely compared merely due to an inaccurate description of DD, or to attempts to 'muddy' the issue. Is it 'torture' to spank a child? No, it is discipline.] So tell me, did God abuse and desire others to abuse ('a rod for the back,')? Of course not! Therefore physical pain in discipline is an acceptable and even godly method of using authority to enforce rule. QUESTION # 3. Ok, Ok, enough of the Don't beat a dead horse! Even if I agree that it isn't Biblically considered abusive if done correctly (whatever that means), - Is abuse an issue to DD's at all? ABSOLUTELY!! First, any NON-spanking pain is absolutely off-limits, as is permanent marks and the like. After all,, Christian parents who spank are also very careful to draw a godly line and go no further. DD is not 'wife-beating.' It is to be a well-channeled program of accountability and obedience, with some 'bite' to the commands. (I WILL GIVE A FICTIONAL EXAMPLE LATER - I AM STILL BUILDING THE PIECES TO THE PUZZLE! STICK WITH IT! PAY THE PRICE.) And anyway, we are talking a SPANKING here! NO fists allowed, NO drunken fights, none of that junk. It is just a time of controlled discipline. Unlike SOME non-DD marriages, the husband is NOT just building steam, and then letting go in inappropriate ways. Instead, he can give discipline with clear controls on what he can and cannot do. And then both can get on with their lives, without building up the dangerous male grudges that explode in some people's lives. AND the man is UNDER authority as well. In hard cases it is perfectly acceptable to bring in other authority to balance his (more on this later). ANOTHER ISSUE ON THIS: This might surprise you, but DD wives sometimes complain that they are not spanked ENOUGH. And/or mention that they believe at times that they are given too much leeway to do wrong before their husband will act as the authority and rein them in. A man in their view should learn to love his wife, and that means active participation in helping her to grow out of bad habits. Believe it or not, some DD's just may see it as abusive for a man to NOT take the DD lifestyle. Letting her go on without practical and real accountability and authority might be seen as abusive. A man who loves his wife should not let her go on unchecked in her desires and bad habits, since long-term those things are harmful to her and to the relationship and kids. ABUSE should have a LONG-TERM definition. TELL ME: Which is more abusive - discipline given in love to motivate someone to focus on and pray for grace to conquer an area of sin in her life? OR years of bad habits virtually unchecked, undermining the wife's life and hurting her relationships? Is it abusive to tell a wife to stop a bad attitude, and eventually back it up with a few minutes of pain? OR is it abusive to allow slander,, horrible attitudes that affect the kids, or whatever her pet 'ungodly behavior' is? Many a person has ruined their life because they would not heed God's wisdom to allow correction! Which is the long-term abusive relationship, a DD might ask? Finally, which is more abusive to the kids - them seeing mom and dad actually respect and love each other? OR fights, games, power plays and mom doing her own thing? Or the CHRISTIAN games, where the wife supposedly submits but is very, very good at usually getting her will done (she manipulates, holds the veto, threatens) and the husband is afraid to buck her? So abuse IS an issue - men are NOT to go beyond certain

parameters, and it might be seen as abusive to leave a wife without a proper 'covering' of a proactive (NOT passive) husband. QUESTION #4: But what about 'let your gentleness be evident to all'? Doesn't the character traits God desires us to live in prohibit spanking? QUESTION #4: But what about 'let your gentleness be evident to all'? Doesn't the character traits God desires us to live in prohibit spanking? A few answers. First off, God has perfect character and - as seen already - both 'spanks' us with painful things AND desired pain to be given both to children and to discipline adults. GOD our example is utterly gentle and virtuous and yet is also utterly able to hold us accountable to our actions and give pain, and tell others to do so. Gentleness and discipline are not mutually contradictory, or God would be a sinner. So be careful before you use the concept of gentleness to remove your responsibility to 'speak truth in love' and act strongly when in authority. After all, does the 'gentleness' and 'love' and 'patience' and other virtues stop you from eventually firing a poor employee? (If you are a wise manager, no.) Or stop you from disciplining a child in some way? (Again, no.) KEY: Gentleness has perhaps been redefined. Gentleness does NOT mean: 'does not give pain.' That's absurd. My dentist is gentle, but my root canal HURT (after the novocain wore off, anyway)! A gentle parent can love a child and be gentle and yet be firm and give discipline. If gentleness meant never giving pain, Christian parents would be in sin every time they obeyed God's wisdom to use the rod to discipline their child properly. So obeying God would be sin. Gentleness does not mean painless, or gentle Jesus would have SINNED when he made a whip and cleared the Temple! No, He who was gentle was also expected by His Father to use authority. And authority is inherently tied to the ability to affect negatively those under authority. Let me repeat that: And authority is inherently tied to the ability to affect negatively [pain of chastizing] those under authority. Where there is no ability to discipline those under you, how can there be real authority? As for the other virtues, the point of DD is to USE those virtues FOR the wife, in a godly way. Love, patience and self-control are all a part of really ruling and occasionally disciplining a wife. (I'll give a bit more on this idea later on, and give a made-up situation to ponder. It is a VERY IMPORTANT story. It illustrates the picture of DD far better than these less visual discussions can!! Stick with it.) LOVE motivates to DISCIPLINE a wife instead of WATCH her walk into a ditch and not stop her. QUESTION # 5: So far you have argued that: (1) men have authority, (2) the rod can't be abusive since God OK'ed it and (3) virtues such as gentleness are not incompatible with DD. So tell me, what are these supposed benefits of DD? In a nutshell: ++(SOME DD might say - a bit extreme, but a great point) Obedience to God. If a man really is the head, then it is sinful for him to NOT find and use God's methods of wielding authority properly. How could we use MAN'S methods in order to properly carry the weight of responsibility God gave a man to carry? ++Protection of the wife spiritually from perhaps the accusations of the enemy and other spiritual attacks. Not being under the 'covering' of her mate places her outside of God's perfect will, and some believe would place her in a place where the enemy has a limited right to attack her. If anyone, man or woman, stands OUTSIDE of the castle walls of submission to God's order (in family, church or government) they are more open to the enemy's archers and foot soldiers. ++Protection of the wife as a whole, as her husband is to learn to be the head of the wife. Remember, Jesus the head of the church DIED for the church, and He also washes her by the water of the word. A wise husband is to 'understand' his wife (from an earlier verse) and live wisely with her. Authority over her means responsibility to protect and love her. ++Accountability. Instead of doing her own thing, spanking can give great motivation to change in areas that she didn't have the willpower or desire to change in before. More on this later, as well as comments about sanctification, freedom and Grace. ++Children might grow up with the example of a father who loves the mother and of a mother who respects the father. And instead of merely fights and power plays and manipulation, they may see more peace as the wife lets go of trying to fight the man and learns to peacefully submit and yet still be a strong, vibrant woman at the same time. A woman who the husband has spent years actively helping her to grow in God (instead of the passivity in many marriages). ++Some DD wives speak of spankings as an emotional help. It can, it seems, stop the bad attitude and leaves peace in its wake at times. Cathartic is what I think at least one person called it. A reassurance that her husband is actively choosing to love her. A way to refocus from having a bad attitude. ++The man grows in his manhood, gaining confidence in God and in his God-given role. He needs to learn to go to God, since he really IS accountable to God for his

family! In weaning himself from passivity and in accepting the mantle of responsibility for the care and welfare of others, he can become more like the active man of God he was created to be. No longer allowing his wife to grab control, he can grow in the areas of proper leadership, active accountability, and in the area of being RESPONSIBLE and not merely passing the buck or passively letting it drop from his shoulders. ++The wife is to learn peaceful submission. That is of great worth to God since a wife who internalizes submission to her husband over time should be also more submissive to God. ++The feeling of taking a step of faith based on the Bible, in spite of what the culture may say. A faith-strengthener as someone actively tries to obey God in an area even other Christians may judge them for. This sincerity and willingness to obey is very precious. Faith steps don't look nice or popular all the time anyway! There may be more, but here are some. I did not go into the emotional benefits here. You may want to ask some DD women in a forum about that side of things - they even speak of sometimes having a "need" emotionally to be spanked and a calming effect or whatever that it can have? Generally they say they do NOT like the pain, but very much like the peaceable fruit of the discipline. Their experience seems to mirror Hebrews 12: 11 "Now no chastening [NOTE: ANY chastening, not just God's, is referred to here] seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; it is SUPPOSED to be temporarily painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness [righteousness of life - a good life - not the righteousness we get by faith in Jesus.] to those who have [they didn't miss out by authority refusing to correct them with painful chastizing, or by refusing to submit to it] been trained by it. " Hebrews 12: 11 [Training is how you get the peaceable fruit.] QUESTION # 6: You mentioned help in growing and losing bad habits (what Christians call "sanctification"). How could externals produce internal fruit? Aren't we to walk in grace and not Law? Let me ask you this. God told you to obey the governmental authorities. You are not under Law for your right standing with God. But as a Christian disciple you are to obey God as Father and Lord. And there are consequences if you do not. And in GRACE God gave you the Holy Spirit and the power to grow and mature to be more like Jesus in this area. But one day you are speeding and get caught. If you are seriously concerned about growth in that area, don't you think a \$100.00 ticket would motivate you to grow up in that area? Even just a little? Now some Christians who aren't very mature might just pay the ticket and go on with life having never learned the lesson. But what if that immature Christian KEPT getting tickets, and others even told him or her to grow in that area? You see, true obedience to God is when we by FAITH trust God and follow God's ways, trusting God for the Grace (undeserved favor) to help in the endeavor. But that does NOT rule out God using or allowing outside influences to motivate us to GO to God FOR the grace, by faith! God used externals in the Bible to provoke people to think and act in faith! A wife must CHOOSE by faith to gain God's help to overcome a pet sin. No amount of discipline (spanking) can change her - she needs God. HOWEVER, if her husband calls her to a higher standard in that area, holds her accountable, and gives her discipline, she certainly should have motivation now to work on it! THE KEY: You see, the GRACE is there as we go to God. And faith is a choice. The problem is that we often lack the motivation to seek God to overcome our sins. We get USED to our sins, and expect others to put up with them too! A husband's discipline changes the priority level - he is leading her to honestly deal with the issue. I will get into this in a fictional example later. When a husband loves his wife and says to her: "I care for you too much to let this go on" and then holds her accountable, she now has motivation to seek God and grow up in that area. Her short time of pain can motivate to a long time of growth. Accountability is helpful. It's love's way to train us to make better decisions, and helps to break bad habits by giving extra motivation. God states that with our temptations there IS a way of escape. Therefore if a husband is pointing out an area a wife needs to grow in, there IS help from GOD in that area. She is not alone, if she is a Christian, since God's GRACE is there. Is she under LAW? No - she does not earn righteousness from God by her deeds, nor does she earn her husband's acceptance by her deeds. But even Christians who are in Grace and not Law are responsible for their actions and reap the fruit thereof. Authority has a ROD. She isn't under law but under grace - but that doesn't mean that she can escape a speeding ticket if she's caught speeding! Similarly, she is to obey her husband, and he has the rod of authority to help her to be motivated where she wavers. She is under grace, but she is not exempt from redemptive, instructive consequences at times. GRACE needs to be received - sometimes people are passive in an area and need motivation to bother to GO to

God and really deal with it. God wants us to be motivated - and often that comes externally either through God's own setting up of experiences, or by those in authority over us. The Bible is filled with God motivating people by externals! Get used to it - it is His normal loving dealings with mankind. He knows it is better for us to be spanked than to be allowed to wreck ourselves. Praise GOD for His wisdom and love!! AGAIN, I will give a great fictional example later that ties this issue in with DD in a good way. Keep Reading!IMPORTANT SIDE NOTE!! The topic is physical discipline (the ROD,, spanking). But keep in mind that Responsible Authority ALSO would include praying together over issues, church commitment, going together through a Bible study on an area the wife is accountable to change in, and so forth. The emphasis of this paper is discipline, but spanking is **\*\*NOT\*\*** the only thing (or even the main thing) that should be done! But since many husbands at least understand the non-rod areas of loving their wives, it is probably good to concentrate on the area where understanding is lacking.QUESTION #7: So far men have authority, and Spanking is not &quot;sinful&quot; since God Himself wanted people in authority to use physical pain on adults. BUT what about a wife - should she be spanked? Isn't that where all this should be leading!?Since this is so misunderstood,, it seems wiser to NOT start at this question. First I gave Biblical reasons for authority in the first place. And then it is important to challenge people to use GOD'S viewpoint of the rod and not culture's insistence that it is somehow abusive to use God's method. There are several different views on this To be fair, I think I need to be clear about this.- &nbsp;DD&#8217;s are NOT all the same!ONE VIEW: One view is that a wife is to submit, a given, BUT that she has to give consent or permission before a husband can from that point on spank her. Although this is really contradictory to the whole 'authority' and &quot;submission&quot; concept, it is perhaps a fairly practical way to enter into a DD lifestyle. In that way the wife and husband have been clear. There is even a CONTPACT on a website, where they can sign on the dotted line.It is a problem, however, if a husband believes Biblically he must use Godly methods to hold authority and becomes convinced that discipline of a wife is the wisest thing to do. Although there is no command to spank,, or any command to NOT spank, he can reason that her unwillingness to be spanked is simply disobedience.That is the SECOND VIEW in a nutshell. Here is a logical thought process on this. Really give this some thought - see how things logically flow together: .1. Husbands have authority over their wives. She also knows that wives are commanded by God to submit 'as to the Lord&quot; and (in headship) &quot;&quot;to their own husbands in everything.' (In EVERYTHING - not what she chooses.) She knows that Sarah even called Abraham lord, a level of submission that was openly acknowledged.2. THEREFORE she is to obey NON-SINFUL commands which equals &#8220;submit&#8221;3. THEN Husband commands her to allow herself to be disciplined. To be accountable for her actions to him. He decides to use God's tool of physical discipline. He takes up not merely the MANTLE of authority, but the ROD of authority. They are a match set! To become more like Jesus he decides that he must use God's methods that the Bible commends. He forsakes culture and chooses the Biblical view of &quot;chastizement&quot; as one way that adults are to be held accountable by those in authority over them.This is NOT Biblically called sinful, and even supported as one way that authority influences those under authority.Therefore she has no BIBLICAL grounds for not submitting.4. BUT she is tempted to refuse to obey her husband's headship and authority. She considers disobeying his leadership command (the command to allow him to correct her by spanking).Heart motivations are perhaps tested. Willfulness, or FEAR, or another sinful attitude may convince her not to obey God. This may show also that she is not placing faith in God and trusting God's decision to put her under authority to this man.In some cases she may not even CONSIDER that she could be wrong. (Lack of humility, or the deception trusting her emotions more than external truth.) Allowing her emotions to go from first impression directly to final evaluation, she convinces herself that her feelings are truly &quot;&quot;of God&quot; instead of allowing them in time to be conformed.(Especially in Charismatic churches women can, I believe, fall into this trap - and so can the men. God does speak I believe, but so do 5 our own emotions and the enemy. Therefore the command to 'test all things.&quot;&quot; How do you test? With objective facts from the Bible, such as this paper is attempting to do.)5. Finally, either because of failing to temptation or perhaps being honestly deceived by her untested emotions and feelings, she disobeys. She says 'no' to her husband, refusing DD, perhaps not fully realizing that she is disobeying God and not merely her husband.Even a woman who passionately loves God can fail here - perhaps even easier

sometimes since she may be used to trusting her 'passion' and emotions, or her knowledge that God speaks to her. But God wants us to test things. We can 'mishear' or confuse our voice/emotions for His. And our enemy certainly does not want God's authority to be properly walked out Biblically. After all, the enemy is opposed to God's rule, God's authority structure. The enemy refused God's mantle, and is to be put under God's rod - so MAYBE it can be guessed that he might want to confuse people to separate the two. THEREFORE she is not being totally submissive to her husband, regardless of what other 'submissive' things she may claim. She is in sin by her own admitted belief in wife submission, even though there is no biblical command for spanking. Because her husband made a DECISION in this area, where God has given no laws either way, she is bound by it and God will hold her accountable to what she did with it. (REREAD.) That's what authority is FOR anyway. If God commanded EVERY issue, you would need no leaders. Instead, God gives general guidelines and examples, and then trains up leaders to make further decisions - giving them wisdom. This greatly helps to work on submissive attitudes in people. People can CLAIM to submit to God, but that claim is tested when God has a mere human in authority over you. Can you trust and obey God when God tells you to submit to a mere human, and it is NOT a perfect situation? When she stands before God she is NOT responsible for whether her husband's decisions were all right or not. She IS however responsible for whether she obeyed the command of God to submit to her husband. And that would include submitting to his decision to use chastisement as the negative influence of his authority. This argument is powerful. IF you believe in wives submitting to their husbands, THEN you are stuck with at LEAST the opportunity for the husband to spank (with a few exceptions I'll hit next). IF authority exists AND you can't prove it sin, then she has no basis to refuse by her own belief in submission. There are CERTAINLY a few exceptions. One is that it MAY be sinful to discipline her due to perhaps being medically too sick to risk any such thing at all, pregnancy, or something like that. But these are not that common. Pregnancy is of limited duration, and very few wives are too sick to be disciplined although CERTAINLY some are and they need to give her 'the benefit of the doubt.' Never risk the woman's health! There are also NON-pain disciplinary actions too that can be used - removing a privilege or so on. The other exception might be the conscience exception. If she believes that it is 'sin' to submit to a spanking, honestly, then her husband may want to not spank right away since she may feel false guilt. In that case the husband needs to really take the time to go over the concept, and challenge her to PROVE it is sinful. (Chapter and verse, please.) And to choose with her MIND truth and not allow the old feelings of false guilt to determine her decision to obey in this area. Be patient and loving - she's a treasure, so help her in love to come to the place of submission and correction that is beneficial to her and to the marriage and family. How can we call sinful something God NEVER condemns? Patient instruction and prayer by the husband may be warranted. One more tidbit to ponder on this question: God called Israel his WIFE in the Old Testament. And spoke of physically disciplining her (by the armies of her enemies, drought, and so forth). Why would God paint the picture of being an 'abusive' husband in an attempt to convince them to LOVE Him?? Don't you see, he painted the picture of a LOVING husband - but who had authority and the ability to give negative consequences - the rod - to his 'wife.' And the pain of discipline was to wake her up to how she was relating to her husband, and help her to realize she should turn. (She of course had to decide to do so or not.) The point is simple - a wife should be disciplined, and it is proper and is how God envisioned his relationship with Israel. It is MODERN CULTURE that somehow drives a wedge between the authority and the ability to evaluate and give negative physical discipline. The mantle, and the rod. By the way, the New Testament 'Bride' is NOT married yet - we have not yet reached the Marriage Supper of the Lamb. Thankfully we will be perfect and pure and won't NEED discipline when Jesus changes us! But until then God the Father disciplines us as His children. QUESTION # 8: -But some wives are 'FREE' in Christ! They- are trying to walk in freedom, not bound. and are enjoying this type of Grace from God, Why would you want them to be bound by such rules? I am a big believer in freedom! Women really need to be free, not bound spiritually or emotionally to things such as rejection or fears. They should be able to RUN with God, with the fears off their shoulders and a JOY that is supposed to be characteristic of Christianity. Chains have no place in a Christian's life! Now tell me, when a Christian woman who is free obeys the speed limit (to escape the consequence of a

speeding ticket), is she free? Of course! She is free spiritually, encouraged in God and probably has JOY that she is able to freely obey God and not speed. She wants SOO much to please God's heart, and not speeding is a pretty EASY way of blessing the Lover of her Soul! But if she speeds and gets a ticket, she can repent and remain free. BUT the consequence of her action helps to motivate her to do what will help her to REMAIN in the place of submission (which is the real place of freedom). Men and women who are NOT free are bound by various things - by fear of man, feelings of rejection, insecurity, guilt, worthless feelings, and so on. These chains of feelings, wrong beliefs and sinful attitudes choke out a faith-filled walk with God, and affect those around them. Some are deep hurts that need healing. Others are simply unbelief or lack of knowledge of God and His ways. Great sensitivity is useful, since the hurts can run very deep (especially in extreme cases such as incest, rape, abandonment, alcoholic parent, and so on). God may convict of sin, but us humans need to be careful to not add to the emotional hurts unnecessarily. The things that bind up a less free woman could hinder her ability to freely live out a loving submissive life with her husband. And more importantly, a woman lacking in freedom may have trouble trusting God's work through her husband, or struggle in giving up a self-protective control of a situation. Deep hurts can lead to strong SELF-PROTECTION,, which can in turn lead to unwillingness to obey God in faith since to do so is to lose control over situations. This is in general, NOT just in dealing with submission to a husband. But a FREE woman is strong and encouraged by God, and is therefore in a better place to trust God and obey in areas that she cannot control what happens. And that of course also includes submission to her loving mate. Actually,, DD is a help to BE and REMAIN free. After all, if a wife will NOT submit to her husband (in non-sinful commands, remember) then that is evidence of a place where she lacks either freedom or understanding. With some discipline from a loving husband,, she is motivated to really deal with the sinful attitudes and actions that have bound her. Obviously GOD must bring freedom into the wife's life. But He uses things such as encouraging friends, the Bible, church, and other ways to help His daughters be healed of the pains of the past. A husband can help the process also, as one more support of what God wants to do. A loving husband who sees his wife struggle in a sinful attitude or failing in an area of good habits can hold her accountable and give her clear motivation. Just like a policeman does, or like God says he does in Hebrews 12. Let's give an example situation - please read carefully with prayer. (God, please help everyone who reads this to see your heart for us and your wisdom. And would see

"themselves"" in the story - putting their names in it and feeling the blessing of DD - the peaceful fruit. In Jesus Christ's name I pray. Amen!) A wife has no habit of Bible reading. She is passive about it, apathetic, saying ""I know I SHOULD" but gets busy with other things and is not really making the changes in this area that are needed. Her husband sees this "giving up' on the area. He also sees and is concerned by some attitude problems, unbelief, and overall lack of encouragement and joy in her life. He knows that Bible reading should really help, but she simply has not made it a priority to be encouraged by God instead of playing super-wife. Until she is trusting in God and not in her hyperactivity, she cannot be free. The husband has a choice - act like a normal husband, say something, and then watch years go by. Learn to cope with her. Let her live as a woman not under authority, doing as she pleases, hurting herself, not changing. Most men spend more effort learning to COPE with a wife's bad habits that DD husbands probably spend in CORRECTING them and helping her to grow. And so in love he takes responsibility to actively love and support her. He tells her that she is responsible to read the Bible daily, and that he will hold her accountable and spank her if needed to help her overcome the bad habit and start a new one. The bad, evil, habits must be changed, and he loves her far too much to leave her in such a weak and dangerous place. And so the wife, who WITHOUT such motivation is rarely into the Bible, now has a choice - work on this issue that day, or be disciplined for that day's choice to sin. So the wife purposes to read it daily. She knows he is right, and the possibility of discipline helps her to FOCUS and to take up the new habit. What was once on her 'eventually' list is now on the "do today" list. The fact that her husband holds her accountable helps her to overcome passivity and apathy. With a renewed focus she tackles her sin in this area. With her husband's love and encouragement, she starts to grow in Bible reading as a habit. Occasionally she fails, is disciplined, and is re-motivated again to persevere in doing good. That's what authority does, and is how God acts as well - the husband is looking more like God's character and less like the world's. She realizes the purpose behind the

discipline. She realizes that she caused her discipline by her bad choice that day - she can't blame her husband for loving her with Responsible Authority. And it helps her to choose well and fight temptation the next time. She knows she needs to God to God and gain grace for this issue, and it is now a top priority. The husband is NOT "growing" her or being "god" to her. But he IS motivating her and re-aligning her priorities. Then she can go to God for the grace needed to mature in this. In time, her walk with God, provoked by her husband's leadership, can lead to godly habits and feelings of freedom in this area. God uses the new Bible-reading habit to love, encourage and draw closer the daughter He loves. She becomes more free, more encouraged. She enjoys successful change, and is thankful that her husband actually loved her and wisely knew how to lead her to the next level. (Many husbands WANT to help their wives. But loving DD husbands have chosen a practical, Biblical, 'God-mirroring' method to actually DO so.) Her times with God blossom, and she finds it humorous and a bit sad that her husband first had to use authority and discipline to get her into such a wonderful habit! And the husband stops asking that often - a missed day means nothing after a habit is established. He doesn't need to "ride" the issue, but can simply do an occasional "check-up." She has gone to God and been CHANGED! But it might not have happened had her husband not motivated her in God's way. Isn't that how God deals with US? He first loves us and tries to woo us. Then He warns us. Then He disciplines us. It is a great thing when men decide to act godly and follow God's example and character. The husband's leadership, and wise use of the tool of discipline, led to far greater freedom for the wife! What about the NEXT time her husband wishes to work on an area? Maybe she will (with this newfound freedom from God) be better able to submit in peace and TRUST that God is using her husband's active and responsible love. She may still hate the pain of the chastising, but since she is obedient God can bless her FAR above such limited and short-term times of discipline. I like my dentist. YES he did painful things to me at times - and he made one decision that did NOT work out and that caused me some pain! But I still like him because he was FOR me, and because his attempts (imperfect as they were, and sometimes painful) were to help me in the long run. Why is this so hard to accept in a marriage? (Note - this is tidy. It COULD be more complex. If she refuses to obey, she can hinder or stop God's loving plan for her here. And there may need to be spiritual warfare fought, prayers prayed, bible studies, and so on. But the point is this. If the husband does spank her and motivate her, there is a chance for her to recover and grow strong in God. Without the use of God's tool of discipline, you are forced to try men's wisdom, and you may struggle more than you need to in the growth process.) QUESTION # 9: Mind convinced, heart doubts.) BUT WHY is this a non-issue among many Conservative Christians? I do not want to be an "accuser" - nor do I want to place blame on churches or Christians. I see this as an area of truth pretty much buried over centuries, and so maybe it would be impossible for me to really "place blame" properly anyway. But I do want to give some general thoughts. First, I believe that one reason is that this culture doesn't even consider it an option to spank a wife. This culture has trained us well. Think about it. MANY Christians will watch porn on TV (Baywatch, almost any sitcom any more, cable) and then consider cheating on their taxes. Then they will ROUTINELY break the speeding laws, regardless of God's blunt command to obey the government unless it disagrees with God. So many of us (maybe all of us?) are so trained by our culture that unless we are REALLY provoked by God's word, some issues are dead from the very beginning REGARDLESS of God's thoughts on the subject. This subject is one. Physical discipline was routine in the past. But in homes and in government it was sometimes wrongly used to torture instead of to lovingly correct. The rod was used by people in a way not intended by the rod-giver! Therefore people went the other extreme and disobeyed God by REFUSING to allow authority to use physical pain of discipline. The rod for the back - God's CLEAR statement - was called EVIL by the masses. Since the rod had been misused, the mantle was soiled in the minds of people, and the rod lost its true purpose in many eyes I could guess. Physical torture is WRONG! And yet you can NOT throw out the baby with the bath water. You do not throw out marriage because some are bad, or toss out the concept of government because of some corrupt leaders. The cure would be worse than the disease! And yet that is what happened. People try to "cure" evil and abuse tossed out the very fabric of God's plan to hold family and society in a proper loving order. Read the testimonies sometime of the WIVES of DD. How it changed their lives, helped or even saved their marriage, how it took them from the stench of this

culture's garbage and helped them to gain the good that this culture tossed out due to fear of misuse. Read them speak of the love felt from their husbands. And of the war zone being replaced (imperfectly of course) with peace. And of overcoming habits with the help of their husbands (weight loss, attitudes, habits of the tongue, Modern women have been robbed and they don't even know it - they have traded away their right to a loving responsible husband and the growth due them from him holding her accountable and loving her and praying for her. Instead, women got needless frustration and unchecked attitudes and unsubmitted, sometimes frustrating habits that might have in time been helped if they were held accountable by their husbands. If no rod, then no training. And eventually you have little fruit to reap. BY GOD'S GRACE, He still trains wives personally, Hebrews 12,, and so many women DO gain much growth and maturity, praise God! But that is IN SPITE OF their husband's lack of the rod. Those opportunities are missed. Fear of misuse is wrong fear. Better to concern yourself with missing God's will, if you must fear .SECOND Possible reason: The willingness to re-direct a woman to having her "chain of command" go around her husband. Now this can be misused and misunderstood, so let me explain. "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church., and He is the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Who is the head of the wife? The HUSBAND. BUT non-DD Christians often get confused at this point. I once worked at a major corporation. I had an immediate supervisor. And WAY above me was the CEO - the head honcho. Now, if the CEO gave me a job to do, I had BETTER jump to it! HOWEVER, I cannot sit around on my duff, ignoring my immediate supervisor, waiting for a phone call from the CEO on what to do!! That is Christian non-DD in a nutshell. They CLAIM that a woman is under authority and work it out some. And they claim the husband is the head. BUT in general the wife tries to BYPASS the husband as much as possible. Now don't misunderstand me - we ALL go to God directly. BUT God PURPOSEFULLY put the husband BETWEEN Himself and the woman IN THE AREA of obedience. Or to put it another way - she needs to jump on ANYTHING the "CEO" may tell her - but she has a human immediate supervisor that cannot be ignored. Routinely women will try to USURP the husband by trying to skip over him. They refuse any supervisor but the CEO - but in doing so, they are actually DISOBEYING the CEO who put her in her position under her husband (NOR would she like her employee - or children - to do that to HER! Could you imagine a young child replying "yes you are my authority, but I'm gonna play in the highway ANYWAY! If God doesn't like it let Him talk to me about it! Only HE can discipline and correct me!" Well, I can't do that because I think God is leading me THIS way. "Well, you can make final decisions on big issues honey, but don't you DARE command me, use authority, or make a decision I don't OK first!" "Ck, you are right, I don't need to tear people down with my words. But don't you even TRY to use the ROD! Just flash the mantle - if that's not enough, just pray to God for me!" He had BETTER not make a large purchase without getting my ok first! (Side note - if he is WISE he WILL get his wife involved and draw out her wisdom, He WILL find out why she feels lead in another way, and so on. But that's not the point, is it. Being right is not an excuse to be disobedient of God..)' Oh, my husband is my HEAD, but he can't command me - only God can do that. But that statement is absurd if you think about it. If he is her head, by the very DEFINITION of authority and headship he can command! Why would God command: "wives submit" if there is nothing to submit TO from that man? Is he the HEAD - or merely a FIGUREHEAD? God commands a man - not a suggestion, but a command. WHY can God, do that? Because the man is under his authority. Is a woman under the man's authority? Then a man can command and not just suggest and barter and beg and eventually let her win. You see, non-DD Christians often by accident make TWO definitions of authority - one to God and one to a husband (dealt with elsewhere). God can physically discipline a man, and does so openly several times in Scripture. Why? Because God is his HEAD. But when a man is the wife's head, headship is redefined to remove the culturally offensive "bite" that all true authority inherently has. ANOTHER reason: Another reason may be that there is confusion about "abstaining from all appearance of evil" in this culture. But what does this really mean? Many elements of obedience to God OFFEND the world. Evangelism is considered evil to some. So is Christianity itself! (I've dealt with some like that on a religion forum.) Spanking a child. Daring to say there are absolute truths. Some people can see



even warning of eternal judgment as "evil". They think of it as merely using fear to force people to obey. What of JESUS? Certainly HE perfectly obeyed the heart of God in the area of abstaining from the appearance of evil, didn't he? YES. BUT what did it look like? He drank wine, and was called a drunk. He did things on the Sabbath that caused people to accuse Him of breaking the Pure Law of God! Jesus did NOT see "abstaining from the appearance of evil" as doing nothing that someone could accuse as wrong. He was CRUCIFIED because He claimed to be the Son of God - a statement seen as WICKED by the unbelieving people who heard Him. But that didn't stop Jesus from doing all these things. The key to this verse is to read it CAREFULLY. Abstain from the appearance of EVIL. It does NOT say, "abstain from the appearance of what others falsely THINK of as evil!" Did you catch that? You cannot look like evil - but it is ok to look like what others THINK is evil so long as it isn't REAL evil. Jesus walked this way. EVIL exists. This verse says to not "LOOK LIKE" you are doing an EVIL thing. Don't look like you are doing the LEGITIMATELY evil thing. We are not to look like we are doing what GOD says is evil. Jesus knew this. Since healing on the Sabbath was not ACTUALLY evil, it didn't matter that OTHERS had a false definition of evil and accused him of it. The standard is NOT the culture's definition of evil, but GOD'S in this verse. Abstain from the appearance - the look - of [REAL] evil. But since Biblically spanking is not evil (unless you claim God is evil) THEN the verse does not apply. Spanking is not evil, so you can spank and people could SEE you spank and it would not matter. Since it is NOT evil to do so, it cannot "LOOK" like evil (God's definition) regardless of how people try to give a "new" definition of evil. That is how JESUS routinely applied this verse. People call good, evil and evil, good. If the culture's definition stops someone from disciplining his whole family, then what is the Christian to do in all the OTHER areas where GOOD things of God are considered evil? Should he stop disciplining his children because culture calls that evil? Vote in a gay pastor if you are personally convinced God says "no" - just because to NOT vote for the gay person would be seen as "intolerant" and evil to the world at large? Just when do you STOP and hold to Biblical convictions if "abstaining" is for the WORLD'S warped view of evil?? There may be other reasons (fear of man, extreme feminism in the church, unbelief, women used to ruling the men, perhaps bitterness in some women who have been hurt by men, traditions that are used to nullify God's word, and the like. But these are a start. QUESTION #10: Is this related to BDSM (Bondage, Domination, Sadism and the like?) They both spank. And some people may find some erotic pleasure from the experience. But BDSM and DD are not the same. Both Bill Gates and I own computers - that doesn't make me rich or him an Ohioan does it? After all, a parent that spanks a child isn't automatically considered by most people to be into BDSM! And I sincerely doubt that the leaders in authority who used the rod on adults (Proverbs) were into BDSM. There are several key differences in DD as a whole: DD spanking is for discipline and pain, and may be unpleasant for some husbands to perform and for most or all wives to accept. It's not SUPPOSED to be fun, but corrective. It is for the purpose of helping the wife grow, helping the husband be an active leader and grow, and building a marriage and family in God's wisdom. However, BDSM is into games and pleasure and is not for the same purposes at all. BDSM often gets into humiliation. That is not the intent if DD. I remember one DD person referring to this idea, saying basically that she felt "humbled" but not "humiliated" when spanked. She is humbled that she is reminded of her humanness, and the husband might be humbled by both her submission and by the great responsibility of the mantle and the rod. ("Feelings" of humiliation may come if the wife is tempted in that area, but that is not the desired outcome and should be dealt with in love.) BDSM spanking is for its erotic possibilities, and/or for the use of role playing and domination lifestyles where power and humiliation are often key. They use the term 'discipline' as a role-playing exercise, but generally it is either sexual, or a power play, or such. This is in contrast to DD's insistence that women are to be loved and protected and cared for, and DD's general emphasis on real life. BDSM may pretend to really use and abuse a woman, "all for fun" - while DD is focused on loving correction and not such fantasies. If it turns into a fantasy, how could it help her grow? DD is FREEING but holds you accountable, while BDSM is often into a person NOT being free to choose (or at least the role playing that they are not free). A DD wife is free to act wisely or foolishly - but she cannot complain if she is held accountable for her actions in order to motivate her to do better. DD itself does not do tie-me-up bondage games, tortures like hot wax, and so

forth. DD is not based on fetish props. DD couples may use a paddle or some such thing, but it is generally for the purpose at hand. A BDSM 'dominant' rules, ties up, and so forth. This is not the same as a loving husband whose goal is to understand his wife and love her like Jesus loved the church and died for her. A BDSM 'dominant' is actually very different than the humble servanthood that Jesus called His leaders to emulate. Christian DD is to be counter to such attitudes. BDSM is generally selfish and sourish. Enjoy yourself. DD can by God's grace try to be love and other-centered. Submissives in BDSM are at times lowered and humiliated and ruled. They are to think of their 'masters' and only seek to please that person. Like the 'dominants' above, that is a radical departure from the Bible's desire for those under authority. Jesus Himself walked this earth under authority - He was not humiliated by the Father, but loved and led. In a DD relationship great HONOR (NOT humiliation) is to be given to the wife under authority (remember the husband verse in an earlier section?), and their job is not 'less' than the job of the leader in the sense that they are both responsible to God. Christian DD holds that there is only ONE overall master, GOD, and that the husband is in authority ONLY because God put him there. Both husband and wife are to seek GOD and seek to practically love and honor one another. They are joint heirs in Jesus Christ, and are equally loved. It is merely a matter of God giving different job positions and responsibilities to each. Christian DD's basically have decided that the head of the household must PRACTICALLY love by holding the wife accountable, and to love and protect her. Both have a commitment before God to take seriously such words as 'submit' and 'authority' and 'love' - and to work it out in the real world by using discipline. To deny discipline is to deny real authority. Authority carries more than just a badge and a figurehead status. And the mantle of authority should not be separated from the rod. IMPORTANT NOTE: These are my views of the difference between DD and BDSM. Keep in mind that some couples feel free to add BDSM to their lives as a game. For example, a wife who is disciplined by spanking may also occasionally get a swat for fun or erotic reasons. Sinful or not, it should not be confused with 'straight,' DD. DD itself has a different focus and emphasis. The purpose of this paper is NOT to debate BDSM and muddy the issue at hand, BUT to show that they cannot just all be lumped together by people unaware of the many differences. QUESTION 11: Does a couple HAVE to become DD? There is no direct command to spank, although authority is supposed to have a rod (ability to correct) as a part of the deal. JESUS did not marry, so we cannot look to His example there. And the disciple-rabbi connection is not a covenant like marriage, NOR a responsibility like government. And so as Jesus walked as a Jewish rabbi He had no human authority to physically correct it seems. Jesus DID tell us, however, that in the future He would judge the Christians and that those who KNEW to do good and didn't would gain many stripes! Now these may or may not be LITERAL stripes, but at least it shows Jesus as ruling with the ROD and not merely the mantle in the future. It can be suspected that some husbands did discipline their wives. Our culture is so warped against authority that we tend to forget that patriarchal societies historically seem to have allowed husbands to walk at times in God's role for them. And some cultures were FAR less wimpy and more open to physical discipline than ours. We use ungodly prisons (never God's wise plan), instead of repayment of debts four-fold, the rod, and such that God told the Israelites to use. Not that we are Israelites or under their laws, but we can learn wisdom from them. Remember my comments on where 'Rule of Thumb' came from? A man was able to discipline his entire household in England (at least under common law it seems?), so they made a law to limit him as a safeguard. The switch could not be wider than his thumb! We are debating what might have been taken as a 'given' at times in patriarchal societies. It certainly was a practice for some people even in this country a few generations ago, and is still at least somewhat acceptable in some places in the world. Sadly, it is often not Christian and lacks the loving guidelines needed for it to be proper and godly. Instead of tossing out God's wisdom altogether, they should have merely used godly protections for the wife and other household members. You don't ban cars just because some people drink and drive. You ban the EVIL of drinking and driving, not the driving itself! But does a couple HAVE to be DD? At first blush the answer is no, they don't HAVE to do so. BUT the issue is not that simple: 1. &nbsp;  If they become convinced that it is a sin to not discipline a wife, then they must follow their conscience and discipline her. After all, if it is seen as God's example and God's tool and that sparks faith, it would be wrong to disobey what they feel is God's way. For example, they become

convinced in submission. Later they become convinced that submission is REAL and by definition the head is able to give negative consequences. They may not decide to spank, but they are 99% there already WITHOUT considering God's use of physical pain as what authority does.<sup>2</sup>

&nbsp;Since there is no direct command for OR against using physical discipline in a marriage relationship, the husband at the head must make the final decision as to using this &quot;tool&quot; or not.<sup>3</sup> &nbsp;But once a man sees this as a tool God has both used and commended, he should be willing to use God's wisdom and forsake his own. So a husband or wife COULD fall into sin here, by trusting their own thoughts rather than God, or by stubbornness or pride. Important: THIS is perhaps the key issue for many - even AFTER seeing it, people will choose not to spank out of sinful motives such as fear or embarrassment or the unwillingness to appear abnormal (fear of man). By the way, there can also be fear and embarrassment in telling people of your commitment to Jesus in some situations (among family? Class reunion?). Your feelings often FIGHT and lie against God's will. So why would you expect your feelings to tell you the truth NOW? To tell the truth in an area of God's character that the enemy has so attacked and buried in this culture? Feelings flow from thoughts and beliefs and experiences. And our thoughts must be renewed by the Bible, our beliefs brought into line, and our experiences need to be UNDERSTOOD properly - all of which can only be done by trusting objective truth over feelings. Pray about what I am saying about emotions - it is a key issue throughout Christianity, not just here.<sup>4</sup> &nbsp;After DD is started, they have both made a clear agreement as to roles. It is sinful for a man to later refuse to remain responsible, &nbsp;for a woman to later try to take herself out of the authority and discipline. Especially on the wife's side, the very nature of the authority of the husband stops her from being able to end the situation. You cannot give me ownership of a new car, then come back two years later and demand the title back. Or join the army and then go 'AWOL'.<sup>5</sup> &nbsp;Since God is someone who physically disciplines, and since 'the rod is for the back,' a man who does NOT choose to discipline may be sin because of refusing to conform Himself to God's character. What God looks like is what we are to grow in - NOT what the CULTURE looks like. These two are far apart, and it seems is growing farther apart as time goes by. Pray about this one - it is weightier than it may first appear. If our goal is 'godliness' but we REFUSE to walk in areas of God's character that He both modeled for us AND gave human examples then something is wrong. We are not aiming at our goal. For those that agree that it is not necessarily 'sin' to spank: Ask yourself this question: 'Are you WILLING to do it?' Whether you choose it or not, if you are not even WILLING, that is evidence of a problem in your humility before God and your ability to TRUST God. If you ARE willing, then it becomes a decision for the husband to make and there are serious issues to consider. BUT on God's perspective, if God has given a man insight as to this tool and the accountability and proactive love model of marriage, it is between him and God whether he follows God's leading (IF IT IS) or not. I do not want to speak for God - whether God ever leads someone to DO or not is not the point. I am saying that IF God does, it would be sin to not obey. QUESTION # &nbsp;12: What if after prayer someone still disagrees with DD? Should he or she tolerate it or speak against it? Let me lead up to my answer: One of the hottest issues in the early church was whether or not new gentile converts had to follow the law to be saved. The answer of course was NO. Keep that in mind when you consider Romans 14. In Romans 14, Paul speaks of disputable matters. Even though he KNOWS that you do not have to keep a Sabbath anymore (part of the Law), he refuses to judge people for keeping one. He states that one person esteems one day above another, and another person esteems them all alike. Then Paul tells us that God accepted BOTH people (so keeping the Sabbath was unnecessary, but you could do it if you wanted to in faith). Lesson learned? Even in a hot, emotional topic where you are SURE you are right, you cannot simply judge someone and should not condemn them verbally UNLESS you have clear biblical reasons to do so. Since discipline is NEVER outlawed, and is commended, it is hard to call it 'sin' to have discipline in a marriage even if you strongly disagree with it. God did not sin when He called Israel His wife and physically disciplined her through armies and famine and the like (physical pain). Nor did others who used discipline. Therefore it seems to me that to judge a married couple for a decision to follow such convictions is not proper. Giving your &quot;opinion&quot; or &quot;feelings&quot; and using that to judge another is not right. If in fact you have a &quot;burden&quot; to do so, that might be a good sign to ask yourself WHY you are upset. After all, swats on the bottom aren't exactly that big of a deal - unless of course you have



I talk a little about this in one of the last sections coming up. But first you could pray and ask: Did God lie, or is your emotion lying to you? "I would be less of a woman." But actually God TELLS us that discipline can produce peaceable fruit! (Hebrews 12) She can become FAR MORE of a woman, not less. What is more of a woman: A selfish woman doing her own thing? Or a woman of character, growing in God and being corrected to keep her from the things that could hinder her growth? "Weak women let such things happen, or allow discipline." Garbage. Only stronger women are in a place to really allow submission and authority. Weak women RUN from real Christian authority, because they don't have either the desire to really change for the better OR they have the desire but not the willingness to pay the price. So this weak woman does her own thing, stiff-arms her husband's authority, and stays weak in some cases. OR grows strong the hard way. Spankings of a mere man are MUCH easier at times that being OUTSIDE of authority, reaping the weeds of disobedience, trying to be motivated to change in areas she has long had little faith to change in. A woman needs to submit her feelings to GOD, and allow Biblical truth to renew her mind. "And do not be conformed with this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." NOTE that only AFTER you renew your mind in an area can you really NN prove "what is God's perfect will! Before a renewed mind culture will program a false response, and you will NOT always feel and know God's acceptable and perfect will. Culture and feelings will fight tooth and nail against God's loving will for you. So we ALL need to remain humble - we can NOT trust our feelings before testing them and renewing our mind in an area! I paid a great emotional price in my life (in another area) because I did not understand God's will but allowed emotions (based on lies not in God's word) to trample me. QUESTION # 14: I am interested in DD, and believe it is both Biblical and beneficial. I want a marriage with love, respect and accountability. How do I tell my spouse/future sidouse about this? I'm embarrassed! By the way,, you are almost done! Just three more sections after this one! That's a tough question to answer. PRAY!! I would suggest this article of course. Or maybe get him or her curious by having fun on a Christian DD forum on the web - just go there with him, and read some posts together. It can be quite a SHOCK to see how the DD wives are so blessed by having God's program of authority in the household!! Those testimonies are great ways to put "flesh and blood" on these concepts. This paper can be dry - their touching stories, changed lives, marriages enriched can show just how lovely this all is when applied by people choosing God's way in love and respect. Make sure you DEFINE DD and CONTRAST it with the things often falsely confused with it (hitting, abuse, BDSM, and so on). I think that some people who hear of DD will reject it NOT because of Biblical issues BUT because of it being "guilty by association." It's the same with spanking a child - people "feel" it is wrong and then are unwilling to see if GOD agrees with their feelings. Many people aren't even open enough to bother to even READ this whole paper - they find it easier to attack me personally than pray and deal with the issues involved. Don't worry if he or she puts down the posts or seems negative. That may be a good time to give this article, using curiosity developed from the forum. And finally, maybe you could just be bold and get it over with. At least THAT might give serious motivation to read this - if nothing else to figure out what you are talking about and why! QUESTION # 15: Do you have any practical guidelines? PLEASE READ THIS, EVEN IF YOU DO NOT BELIEVE IN DD. IT IS VERY IMPORTANT AND INSTRUCTIVE! Yes, although there is probably in how people work out DD. To the husband: (BOTH wife and husband should read both lists!!) 1. Make sure that she knows your expectations. It is not fair in general to spank her in areas she honestly did not know she was in the wrong. 2. You are effective if she loves and respects you. But this can be horribly misused. For example, we are to 'fear' God (respect God and respect His discipline and rule over our lives). But a Christian is a CHILD of God and is NOT to live in terror (I John speaks of perfect love casting out that type of fear). As a husband, NEVER inspire personal terror, but it is ok if she is in fear of a spanking - that is natural. 3. The idea is discipline, not humiliation. Her bottom should be hurt, but she should not be purposely publicly humiliated. This is a private thing. Others may know you are DD, but she should not have to fear that you would spank her openly. 4. KEY: DD is NOT an excuse for a power trip!! You must concentrate on being UNDER authority to God - THAT is your focus. And as God's servant and child, you then on that basis choose to love your wife and responsibly lead her. If you LOSE this focus you can lose the healthy understanding of being under authority, and become domineering. Domineering is sin and

shows selfishness and pride, all of which saps your wife's trust and respect in you. (Following THIS alone should give you a great start on deciding how to apply DD.) If she sees you as humble and for HER good, then she can respect you. If she routinely sees domineering pride, she will question your motive for discipline (merely selfish desire to control and not love) and that will really hurt your marriage relationship and her willingness.<sup>5</sup> Her rear end and maybe 'nearby' is the only appropriate target. The Bible speaks of a rod to the back, but she is more sensitive and I suggest you stick with the safer spot. You want to be ultra-cautious with your treasure and not do any harm. Stick with the safer spot. Discipline is to be temporary - never even THINK of doing something that would give a long-term harm. That would show a lack of concern for her well-being, and she could lose respect for you. No, give her spankings to remember, and let her sit on pillows occasionally. But that's it.<sup>6</sup> Be consistent in discipline (spanking AND non-spanking). If you are on again, off again you are not taking your love responsibility seriously enough. Does God take breaks from loving you? No, that does NOT mean that you always spank - pray for wisdom. But you never want her to question whether you are obeying God by walking out your headship in a responsible way. Passivity is sin. Do not shirk your responsibilities before God.<sup>7</sup> While you need to avoid passivity, keep in mind that spanking is not always the way to go. It is a TOOL, and you need to be WISE! And part of wisdom - perhaps the greatest part at times - is when NOT to use a tool. It's fine to give her vacations from the possibility of spanking, for a short time, or use other measures (withhold a privilege that is optional but fun for her, for example). And quite frankly, over time she shouldn't need it as often anyway (you hope) as she seeks through God to develop self-control and submission as a lifestyle (unless you two have a whole list of things she added to her life that now she needs to little by little go to God and overcome). Be wise and loving. Note - self-control is a fruit of the Spirit. Fruit are grown, not instant, and get bigger with time. BUT a husband can motivate her to go to God to seriously seek God and walk in the faith needed to grow that fruit. If he won't let her 'take vacations' from God's graces (Bible, church, fellowship, etc.) without discipline then she has less chance of having a 'frost' kill the fruit growing before it is edible. Consider what I say.<sup>8</sup> Furthermore, you may want to TEST her maturity in an area. The ONLY way to do that is to promise to NOT spank in that area for a set period of time (2 months?). This lets her choose before God and you can then see if she REALLY dealt with God, or merely was avoiding your spankings. See how she does without accountability. If she loses the good habit in a month, she needs more help there - maybe you can study the topic in the Bible, pray together about it, and so on. If you only spank, non-stop, you will have no idea whether she has taken enough faith-steps to be solid in an area or not. (Rereads the green note at the end of QUESTION 6 above.)<sup>9</sup> But at first, in the first few years of marriage, you may find her in need of accountability in many areas. Be sensitive, work on only a few main areas at a time, but do what you must. If you work on EVERYTHING she may feel she is disciplined too much. And she can feel a great weight of trying to be perfect in many areas, and that simply isn't fair. NO, like a wise parent does with children or a wise manager with a new employee, PICK several issues and don't overwhelm with everything at once. When THEY are dealt with well and accountable, prayerfully add to them or replace them. If you are a perfectionist FIGHT the urge to apply that to her. The goal is NOT for her to learn to be controlled by you! The goal is for her to learn SELF-control by having consequences to her decisions. How can she learn self-control, break old habits and learn new habits if she feels she has to be perfect in all things right from the beginning of the marriage? Pray, pick the areas to work on first, and go from there. SHE IS A WOMAN OF GREAT VALUE - TREAT HER AS SUCH. You may have to cut a diamond to make it sparkle - but because of its worth you do so CAREFULLY and with skill!! (And no you don't let it remain dull and without facets to reflect light - you DO shape it, 'X painfully' so to speak. It's a great analogy for DD, even though it is limited. Be very kind. Make the conversation open. Make the acts of respect and love free. Make the encouragement routine. Make the spankings real, not play, and painfully honest. And make the focus on God clear your number one priority. And then let God create a peaceful household of trust in God and real responsibility before Him. To the wife: 1. Keep your focus on obeying GOD. Don't be too husband-focused. Your goal is to please Christ, not merely obey your husband. IF you concentrate on your imperfect husband, you may find it hard to walk in FAITH. Husbands aren't always faith-building! Look to JESUS not the waves, like Peter did when he was successful in walking on water. When he looked to the waves (your husband?) his faith wavered and he fell. God really does work for

the Christian woman's good - don't hinder God's blessings to you by a lack of faith in God! IF you are trusting in God and resting there, then you can have faith that God will use your imperfect husband to be a blessing to you. If you can't, it is an issue of YOUR FAITH, not your husband. No man is so bad that God cannot love you and bring something good out of it (a testimony perhaps? Eternal rewards after a painful life?) Thrust God's eternal perspective.

2. Your husband is imperfect. Therefore you will almost certainly be given commands that you disagree with. So long as it is not sinful to obey, you will need to TRUST GOD and OBEY GOD and simply obey your husband.

3. There will be commands to prepare to be spanked. Respect his leadership. If you strongly disagree with him and don't believe you should be spanked, then tell him (with a submitted attitude). But even if you disagree, you are still under authority and must before God go and prepare for discipline. He has the authority by God to discipline you - it is between him and God whether he is doing it for the right things or not. (He could be wrong, true, but you could be as well.) Your husband will NOT always choose wisely, but God has given authority and you have to come to grips with (1) your husband's right to fail, and (2) your obedience even when he does. ALL human authority messes up at times. But God still tells us to obey. God KNEW people would err - He isn't caught by surprise. But God decided that authority is a must, and that when those in authority fail this will be a way for others to grow in godly character as they learn to obey and trust God anyway. Let God sort it all out - YOU could be wrong yourself. Can you trust GOD to work all of this for good? Since GOD sees all this, TRUST God. Let it work in you good character traits - face it, life isn't fair for ANY of us, or perfect, and yet we still must act obediently and responsibly.

4. Do not allow real abuse!! You have every right to go to your pastor, etc. in the case of abuse. (But you do NOT have the right to call abusive what God refuses to, so be careful not to complain of spanking.) Remember, you are not alone. God has safeguards. An abusive husband still has authority, and a right to spank is there (like it or not), but if he goes beyond that then you must choose to get help. Never let a man confuse you by trying to blend angry punching or some such thing with "discipline." That's baloney. The wisdom from above is pure, peaceful, and easy to be entreated. Love is kind (not always pain free! But kind). Another issue: It can be VERY hard to obey or be PROPERLY disciplined by a spouse that has previously been abusive. Your heart may be closed, your trust shattered. But, like fixing him a meal or giving him sex, you still need to go on as his wife before God. Unless of course he simply cannot be trusted to ONLY spank you, which means that you need to get the pastor directly involved. And let it be known that anything beyond spanking is unacceptable - you can even separate from him for a time to drive the point home, and the police should be called in dangerous situations. (NOTE: "Dangerous, NOT 'I don't want a spanking.'" If you call for a mere (normal, not wickedly beyond) spanking, you are in disobedience.) Your pastor needs to be consulted in the case of real abuse. I caution you not to allow his sin to be an excuse for you to sin in return. It is a horrible thing to abuse a Daughter of the King! But may God comfort you if this has been your experience. If you are struggling in this area, pray, trust God, and read I Peter 2:18 through 3:1. NOTE: Many men may probably be embarrassed at first to even spank! And NOT all men have abused at all. Most men do NOT hit, and yet sadly some women have experience with those men who do. Don't toss out Godly authority and wisdom just because some men do evil. You don't toss the idea of having policemen just because some cops are crooked, and you don't throw away all your food if you find something rotten in the frig. No, deal with the exception, and maintain faith for God's lines of authority.

After The Questions, Some Final Important thoughts Discipline would not be much of an issue, I believe, had men not abused women so often by hitting, raping and molesting them. It is the EMOTIONAL baggage of such things that cloud the issue. And we live in a culture who's God is self-authority. Authority is not seen as an absolute that God gave in love to protect us. No, authority is instead thought to be merely a way that society protects itself. Instead of authority as love, authority becomes a "necessary evil." Freedom from authority God calls "disobedience" and is destructive. But to this society, freedom from authority is considered the goal. Grow up, so that you do not need to be under your parent's authority - while God tells us ALL to submit to one another. Go into business so that you don't need a boss's authority, while God tells us to submit where He places us and learn the character traits of godliness through such things. Our culture has falsely defined 'success' as freeing oneself from more and more authority! While God looks at the sad mess we make, as we somehow convince ourselves that enthroning

selfishness and not respecting authority is somehow "good." Respect authority? We barely TOLERATE it! God's love speaks the opposite. For example, a person is to "leave" his or her parents and "cleave" to their spouse. A person is supposed to go from one authority to another, Biblically, as a safety net around them - so that they are always covered in practical love. But this culture has people simply leaving authority, doing their own thing, and learning to live selfish lives as they please. Then wondering why society falls apart, why most women in this culture are hurt and have trouble trusting men, why many men are often self-centered and out for their own interests and not caring responsibly for the people around them, etc. DUH. The command to honor your father and mother meant that they were to be respected as your authority. Instead of using the teen years to rebel, the teen years are supposed to be the loving launch pad. A time where the teen learns to humbly listen to advice and grow into a man or woman of strength and character. Humble enough to listen to authority, wise enough to get help before building a life -- building a life instead of wasting the time. Most marriages waste more time COPING with a wife's problem areas than a DD marriage might spend CORRECTING it. A DD wife may spend a year learning to not gossip and backbite, and be ok after that. A non-DD wife may spend all her life destroying relationships. And her husband wastes decades trying to "cope" with what he should have used his authority to help her overcome. What a sad waste when people allow their emotions to decide whether God's tools should be used or not. COPING is like sowing WEEDS in your garden. The act of coping is a waste of time, AND the later fruit is weeds! It is MUCH better to spend time praying with her over an issue, holding her accountable, spank her (weed the garden) as needed, and sow GOOD seeds that produce a crop of peace! "Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but PAINFUL; nevertheless, afterward it yields the PEACEABLE FRUIT of righteousness to those who HAVE been trained by it." Hebrews 12: 1-11 Summary of argument for spanking as a tool :---- &nbsp;A husband is in authority over his wife.---- &nbsp;Discipline is not sin and abuse, and is given honor by God in the Bible by being a method He Himself uses in love, and by God commending several times the wisdom of humans in authority using it. The mantle has the rod. Emotions to the contrary need to be submitted unto God.---- &nbsp;There are guardrails to keep it pure, and both husband and wife must walk within those parameters, - Discipline is not to be confused with evil things people do that are far beyond those love boundaries. Nor should it be confused with BDSM, or with issues of whether a woman can be a pastor or other non-marriage issues.---- &nbsp;A husband can choose God's tool. Since it is not sinful for authority to use physical discipline, his wife is commanded by God to obey (with a few rare exceptions given above).---- &nbsp;A wife who refuses discipline should prayerfully and in faith come to grips with her God's commands to obey her husband. If she cannot submit here, then submission as a whole is in doubt - how can you call yourself submitted if you only submit where you WANT to? That "false" submission is really simply manipulation and control, as the wife has final veto authority by choosing what to submit to.---- &nbsp;(Not really discussed directly, but:) She is also hindering the outflow of God's love through her husband. God deeply cares for her, and DOES want her best. But He makes it clear that for her to be the powerful, strong woman of God that He desires, she must overcome "self" through submission. Only by putting down her desires can she pick up godly character, since her selfishness fights the growth of virtue.---- If she has NOT been trained by the painful chastising, she may forfeit some peaceable fruit that could have been hers (or get it delayed). She may spend decades trapped in bad attitudes and sinful habits that might have been corrected. She may destroy relationships, even hurt or wreck her marriage, all for the protection of her disobedient heart. DD is not a guarantee of things working out, and at times you may need to walk in FAITH in God's wisdom. But NOT using DD may cause some habits to go on uncorrected that may be hurtful later. (This could be her HUSBAND'S fault and not hers - he is responsible to actively participate in leading his wife, and shirking his duties for the sake of following cultural norms is sin.)---- Discipline (spanking) can not CAUSE freedom or maturing. But it CAN re-prioritize and help motivate the wife. Remember, people get used to their sins and actually assume others will simply learn to cope. It sometimes takes godly chastising and the pain of it to motivate us to forsake passivity in an area - the Bible is very clear concerning this.---- Spirituality is NOT running your own life your own way. Even Jesus did not do that, but lived in total submission to His father - I ONLY do what I see the Father doing. Since Christ is the head of the husband, Christ will discipline and train him, sometimes



through painful chastising. Since the wife's head is the husband, the husband is to follow God's method and do the same in wisdom and active, responsible love. SINCE God gave husbands authority over their wives, AND SINCE authority has the ability to give consequences (as the Bible is very clear), THEN a man may lovingly give those negative consequences to his wife in order to care for her in a way similar to how God cares for us. This is an iron-tight logical and Biblical argument as long as emotions don't get in the way. Although a husband may choose to NOT use the tool, it is there to use. May God help everyone who reads this to get past any emotional hurts, any embarrassment, and training from the culture, and instead renew their minds and walk in God's wisdom as He revealed. May the men love their wives enough to pursue using God's wisdom. And may the women get past the feelings and the fears and radically press into this issue as a way to further love their Savior! For God loves us with an overwhelming love beyond comprehension - may we all trust His wisdom! THANK YOU. You may COPY this and may email it around. You may repost it IN IT'S ENTIRETY on a web site, but not in parts (that would defeat the purpose of the thorough look. And people may need to take time and ponder a lot to get past the first-impression feelings on this.) Clearly giving credit to "1Z". You can of course use smaller parts in forums and personal emails so long as you are faithful to not give a false impression on my carefully expressed viewpoint (like quoting something to make it SEEM I am for abuse or am teaching BDSM here, or the like). You may not resell it. THANK YOU!

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