

Be careful with your system of rewards, praise and discipline.

Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. Colossians 3:2

Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore. Psalm 16:11

- Do you praise and reward more when your child first hits a ball or when he first says a verse from memory?
- Is he praised more for the first dollar that he earns than for the first Gospel track that he gives to an unsaved person?
- What about discipline?

Some parents will allow their child to mingle with the world by watching the unsaved in movies and in situation comedies - and then use T.V. restriction as a form of punishment. In effect, the parent is saying, "Yes, I recognize that this is important to you, and so by taking this away I will attempt to train you to be good so that you can have what is important to you." The child is then "good" so that he can watch T.V. When we discipline by taking away something that should not be important to our child, we cause him to work to regain this "privilege," thus strengthening its position as one of his values. Restrictions, if used in place of physical discipline, must be well thought-out. A more useful form of discipline might be the temporary restriction of a privilege that had been gained as a result of maturity.