

# Personal Evangelism

John 16:7-11

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(10)  
(Continuation from 06/13/12)

## The Message: God's Plan of Salvation, John 16:7-11

### Section III.

### Chastening and Rewards

Yes! Eternal life is guaranteed to all believers, but never make the mistake of thinking Christians can live as they please. ***They cannot.*** They can try, but God will not allow it. This should be made very clear as you witness. This is very important because failure to make this clear can keep a person from wanting to trust Christ as his Savior.

When you are saved, you become God's son, and while you have certain privileges as God's child, remember that God is now your ***Father*** and has the responsibility of taking care of you. If a person thinks a Christian could live in sin and not be punished for it, he doesn't know much of the Bible, nor does he understand the working of the Holy Spirit in the life of a Christian.

History attests to the fact that when evil is allowed to go unpunished, it multiplies and causes heartbreaking damage. Confucius created a social situation that amazed the world: Under his system there was no crime problem. Why? He punished evil and rewarded good. Confucius followed the same plan God uses in dealing with His children. God deals with His children mainly in two ways: (1) When you respond to and obey the Lord's leading in your life, God's discipline for you will be mainly one of guidance, encouragement, and further instruction; (2) When you rebel against God's leading, He will deal with you in however strong a measure it takes for you to obey Him. People are motivated mainly by **two things**: **love** and **fear**. God uses each in a perfect blend that is just right for each Christian.

**Proverbs 3:11-12 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> My son, do not reject the discipline of the LORD Or loathe His reproof,

<sup>12</sup> For whom the LORD loves He reproves, Even as a father *corrects* the son in whom he delights.

This is quoted in **Hebrews 12:6.**

**Hebrews 12:6 (NASB)**

<sup>6</sup> FOR THOSE WHOM THE LORD LOVES HE DISCIPLINES,  
AND HE SCOURGES EVERY SON WHOM HE RECEIVES."

Notice, when God corrects you, is it because He hates you? No, but because He loves you and knows what is best for you.

**Job 5:17 (NASB)**

<sup>17</sup> Behold, how happy is the man whom God reproves, So do not despise the discipline of the Almighty.

When a Christian disobeys God, he should confess it right away. **“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness” (1 John 1:9).** Every time you sin, you should confess it. Every time you confess your sin, you will be forgiven.

Please notice two other things about [1 John 1:9](#):

(1) God does not guarantee restoration of fellowship on the basis of confession of sin. Fellowship with the Lord comes when a Christian disciplines his life so that he has **“things in common”** with the Lord.

(2) God does not guarantee restoration of damage resulting from sin on the basis of confession of sin. For instance, perhaps a Christian has gone away from things of the Lord and starts to drink, and he ruins his kidneys. If he confesses his sin, yes, the Lord will forgive him... but that forgiveness doesn't heal his damaged kidneys.

There is a natural result of sin as well as God's personal chastisement in your life. [Galatians 6:7](#) says, **“Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.”** Notice that God does NOT add, “EXCEPT if he confesses it.” A Christian can do wrong things, but he cannot escape the CONSEQUENCES of doing wrong things. A person can put his hand into the fire if he wants to, but he cannot escape getting his hand burned. Some Christians want to sow wild oats all week long and then pray for CROP FAILURE at the end of the week!

One could not say how often you could commit the same sin before God would severely chasten you for it. The Lord uses His discretion in every instance. You will receive **“personalized”** attention. People often want to know **“what God will do to them”** if they do **“thus and so.”** [Hebrews 12:11](#) says when God chastens you it will not be pleasant:

**Hebrews 12:11 (NASB)**

<sup>11</sup> All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

A disobedient child is never happy. Continued sin often brings weakness and sickness into your life. If you refuse to respond to God's dealings with you, if you refuse to discipline your life, God can even take you home earlier than He would have otherwise ([1 Corinthians 11:30-32](#)).

**1 Corinthians 11:30-32 (NASB)**

<sup>30</sup> For this reason many among you are weak and sick, and a number sleep.

<sup>31</sup> But if we judged ourselves rightly, we would not be judged.

<sup>32</sup> But when we are judged, we are disciplined by the Lord so that we will not be condemned along with the world.