



*from the desk of*

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## They are all different...

...but yet are all the same.

### Consequences, Part 2

**Galatians 6:7 (ESV)**

<sup>7</sup> Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap.

Dear Parents,

You know in your own life that there are consequences for your actions. If we don't train our children to know that this is simply the way life is, 'm afraid we aren't doing a great job of preparing them for the real world - plus missing opportunities to mold and direct their lives. As the old saying goes, "we never have to teach a child how to be bad." That comes naturally. We do have to teach them how to be good.

Consider the following from *Four Easy Ways to Improve the Way You Discipline*, by authors Jim and Lynne Jackson:<sup>1</sup> Here they direct consequences to be reflective of doing something to make a situation better.

#### ***'You are responsible'***

*So as parents, we first help them understand who was hurt or inconvenienced, or how some physical thing needs to be fixed. Then we help them figure out some ways to repair that. For example, when a child uses hands to hurt a sibling, he can make things right by using hands to help, perhaps by doing a chore for that sibling or maybe creating a card affirming the one he hurt. Or a child who has been*

*warned several times about playing outside in socks without shoes  
may have to dip into her own piggy bank to buy replacements.*

*Well-administered consequences help kids feel remorse for what  
they've done but also experience an action that helps make things  
right. A child who refuses to finish chores gets privileges back when the  
chores are done — and after he does an extra chore to compensate for  
any inconvenience caused to others. A child who has lied helps create a  
practical plan to restore trust in her affected relationships.*

A key to this is to have the consequences have a connection with the action. I heard of a story of a man who was staying at a lake with his family. His young son wanted to go fishing with him in the mornings, and was told he had to be on the dock by 6 AM. So, when the father was some 50 yards from the dock and his son showed up, he kept going. Perhaps a bit extreme, but the rest of the time at the lake the boy was there on time. The consequences fit the action.

Taking this kind of action almost always involves either an inconvenience to the parent (you must make sure that the consequences are followed up on) or a tug at our heartstrings (we don't want to see them sad). However, time proves that this type of action has a much better chance of changing behavior than just doing a time out or (worse yet) just ignoring it after some yelling.

Starting next week - What are the goals of a parent (and more than just your or their survival without CPS coming into play)! When they're ready to walk out that door on their own, what do they need to be prepared for? (So, there is something to do after potty training - although that would be the minimum).

Need further ideas with specific needs? I'm only an email away!  
(dcerandy@blcbcs.org).

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iii <http://www.focusonthefamily.com/parenting/effective-biblical-discipline/discipline/new-goal-for-discipline>