

God's Hammer and Chisel of Discipline

Video – The Skit Guys – God's Chisel

What is God's purpose in your life? **To make you new!** **2 Corinthians 5:17**

- When you & others see your reflection, what should be seen is Christ!

How does one get there? First, you need God to save you from your sin!

Second, you need God to take a hammer and chisel to your life!

To make something new, to create a masterpiece, a master builder needs to chisel away what doesn't belong and remove all the rough edges!

This doesn't sound very appealing when being applied to our lives, but

consider whose hands the hammer & chisel are in – God's hands!

He's more than just a master builder, He's a good, good Father who loves us

"My son, do not despise the Lord's discipline or be weary of His reproof, for the Lord reproves him who He loves, as a father the son in whom he delights." – Proverbs 3:11-12

Because God delights in us, because He loves us, He disciplines us! God's loving discipline in our lives reveals our status as His sons & daughters!

Yes the chisel of discipline hurts, but it's the only way to get rid of the deep rooted sin in our lives, that if left alone will destroy us!

Jesus went to the cross to remove the eternal consequence of sin, but the presence of sin still needs to be cut out of our lives!

If God's purpose is to create in us a masterpiece that resembles His Son, then there is much work to be done, many rough edges to be removed!

Our mission statement here at BRC is **"to be a church where the love of Jesus is transforming lives!"** Do we truly understand what this means?

Transformation – "a thorough or dramatic change in form or appearance." God's transforming work in us in Christ ought to bring dramatic change!

Change is not easy, transformation is not always enjoyable, but it's necessary!
Proverbs 6:23 – "the reproofs of discipline are the way of life"

Or consider the blunt words of **Proverbs 12:1 – "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid!"**

Like it said in the skit, it comes down to control! Is God in control of your life or are you playing games with God – saying one thing & doing another?

Are you willing to allow Him free reign to chisel whatever is necessary out of your life to make you more like Jesus? **Do you trust Him?**

Can you really declare "You give and take away, but my heart will choose to say blessed be Your name"? Or "Whatever my lot... it is well, with my soul."

Honestly, how often are we like the guy in the skit – justifying, excusing, resisting, denying and even declaring – **"I CAN'T"?**

Change, transformation and sanctification hurt, but it's the kind of hurt that leads to something beautiful – a masterpiece in the making!

And remember this is **God's work**, He is the one creating a masterpiece in you!
"For it is God who works in you, both to will & to work for his good pleasure."

His good pleasure, through discipline, is to work for our good. **Heb. 12:10,**
"But he (God) disciplines us for our good, that we may share His holiness."

Hebrews 12:11 – "For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it."

Are you inviting God to do this good work in your life? **It begins with prayer,** and is followed up with reading God's Word b/c **"All Scripture is breathed out by God & profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, & for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete..."**

God's chisel is His Word! Get into His Word, and let His Word get into you! And when you are tempted to resist His reproof, remember who He is!

Also remember what He has already done for you, and the good purpose for which His discipline has in your life! **A fool-proof life is a discipline-filled life!**

You are a masterpiece in the making, so let the hammer & chisel in the hands of God do the work necessary to shape & mold you into the image of Jesus. **"The Lord disciplines those He loves, as a father the son he delights in!"**

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