

Philosophy of Discipline

Although the students of Zion are taught the Word of God daily here at school and at home, our children are not exempt from the temptations of the devil, the world, and their own sinful flesh. At times they fall prey to these temptations.

When these times occur it is our duty as a school to point out, admonish, correct, and chastise such errors by applying the truths of God's Word, the healing of Christian love, and the firmness of discipline. We are bound by Scripture to "*preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction.*" (2 Timothy 4:2). God's Word tells us the importance of discipline when it says, "*He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him.*" (Proverbs 13:24)

Zion teachers and staff assume the role of parent/superior when the students of Zion are under its care. Disregard for God's Word or rules of the school; disrespect for the pastors, teachers, staff members, or fellow students; or lack of self-control and Christian conduct will make it necessary to discipline the child.

Teachers discipline students with God's Law and Gospel. The law is the teaching that all are sinners who deserve damnation. The gospel is the teaching that Jesus through his life, death and resurrection has saved us from damnation (Romans 3:23). We use the law to point out sin (Romans 3:20). We use the gospel to comfort the sinner, and motivate proper behavior (1 John 4:19). Only the love of Christ properly motivates and empowers children to live a life that pleases God, including self-control, self-esteem and respect for others. For this reason we seek to have the teaching of God's love for us in Christ (gospel) predominate in our classroom.

Parents are an important part of the disciplinary process and will be notified by their child's teacher when a serious discipline problem arises. Communication and a cooperative spirit based on God's Word will be used as disciplinary action is discussed and completed. In more severe discipline cases, the teacher and/or principal will consult with the child, parents, and the child's pastor for further cooperative action.