

Proverbs 20:30

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

The blueness of a wound cleanseth away evil: so do stripes the inward parts of the belly.

Analysis

Suffering and correction have purifying effects—'stripes' (wounds from discipline) and 'blows' cleanse away evil. Physical punishment serves pedagogical and reformative purposes, purging wickedness from the heart. While modern sensibilities recoil, the proverb reflects biblical realism about human depravity and the need for strong correction. The 'inward parts' (Hebrew 'chadrei-beten') refers to the innermost being—thoughts, motives, desires. External discipline can effect internal change by breaking stubborn will and teaching consequences. This applies both to child-rearing and to God's fatherly discipline of His children (Hebrews 12:5-11). Properly administered correction demonstrates love and aims at restoration and righteousness.

Historical Context

Biblical corporal punishment was regulated to prevent abuse but recognized as necessary for instruction. Modern rejection of discipline has coincided with societal moral chaos, validating wisdom's ancient counsel.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Colossians 1:16 — All things created through Christ

Genesis 1:1 — Creation of heavens and earth

Study Questions

1. How do you view discipline—as harmful oppression or as loving correction?
2. How has God's discipline in your life purged evil and produced righteousness?

Interlinear Text

חִבֵּר אוֹת	פָּ צַעַ	תִּמְרֵי יֵקֶן	בָּכָ ע	וּמַכּ אוֹת	חִדְרֵי
The blueness	of a wound	cleanseth	away evil	so do stripes	the inward parts
H2250	H6482	H8562	H7451	H4347	H2315
בֶּטֶן:					
of the belly					
H990					

Additional Cross-References

Hebrews 12:10 (Parallel theme): For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness.

Proverbs 22:15 (Parallel theme): Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Proverbs 19:25 (Parallel theme): Smite a scorner, and the simple will beware: and reprove one that hath understanding, and he will understand knowledge.