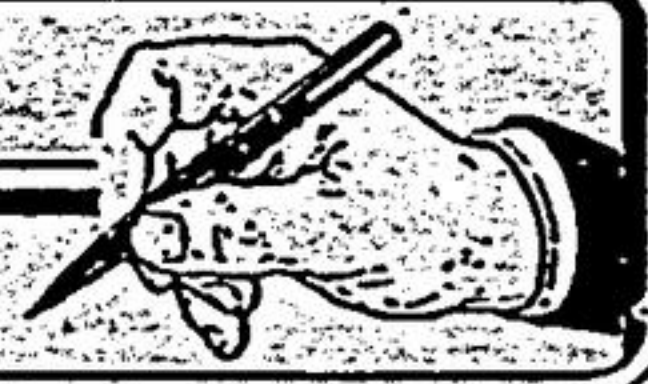


Editor's

Mail



Goheen's 'use the rod' piece backed

Dear Sir,

I write with respect to Rev. Michael Goheen's "From the Pulpit" column, Sept. 19 Weekender ("There's no need to spare the rod.") Dr. Langford and Elaine Rowan miss some very significant points.

I can't help but paraphrase the well known commercial for E.F. Hutton: "When God talks, nobody listens... anymore."

Any sensible adult giving the Bible a fair reading would find that a truly loving parent provides guidelines and expectations and discipline based on compassion and caring.

But you can't wish away the need for discipline.

And of course Elaine Rowan seems to believe that the Bible teaches both "Love thy neighbor, but beat the daylights out of thy children."

My, what intemperate language, Elaine. I couldn't find it in the Bible.

It seems to me the sad fact is that we are now living in a post-Christian era.

Psychology proposes no absolutes, while the Bible calls us to lives of discipline and obedience.

Keep it up Rev. Goheen. We don't like medicine either, but we know we need it.

James W. Boehmer
Unionville

Minister makes case for discipline column

Dear Sir,

The passionate fervor that characterizes the tone of Dr. Langford's letter to you (Reverend's ideas disturb reader, Sept. 26) evidences an obvious and deep-rooted interest for the health of the family.

It particularly shows a desire for children to flourish in a proper family environment.

Further, Dr. Langford's letter is saturated with an ardent concern for abused children and those adults permanently scarred by child abuse.

I rejoice in this commendable zeal and pray that God might use him to ease the pain and suffering in the family due to man's sin.

However, the vitriolic and vituperative nature of this letter is disturbing. In my column, I only wanted to set forth one Bib-

lical principle.

The Bible teaches that parents are to use spanking in their child-rearing. It was not suggested that spanking be employed apart from "guidelines and expectations-based on compassion and caring."

It was not suggested that spanking be a method to induce obedience on the basis of intimidation and fear. Nor was it suggested that spanking alone can solve the "complex and heartbreaking problems of modern living."

It was not even suggested that spanking alone would have solved John's problem. My friend has read these things into my article and has consequently attacked a straw man.

If, on the other hand, he is suggesting there is no place for spanking and corporal discipline

administered as I said — with love, proportionately, and within reason — then his quarrel is with God's Word, not with me.

To suggest this principle is established by a few Bible quotes by rote and that this principle can be overturned by an appeal to a few New Testament quotes shows a need for another look at the Bible.

Dr. Langford is not dodging a few isolated prooftexts taken out of context. Rather, he is seeking to dodge an avalanche of Biblical evidence on the matter.

May God grant that we seek to raise our children in the light of God's Truth.

Rev. Michael Goheen
First Presbyterian Church of
Unionville

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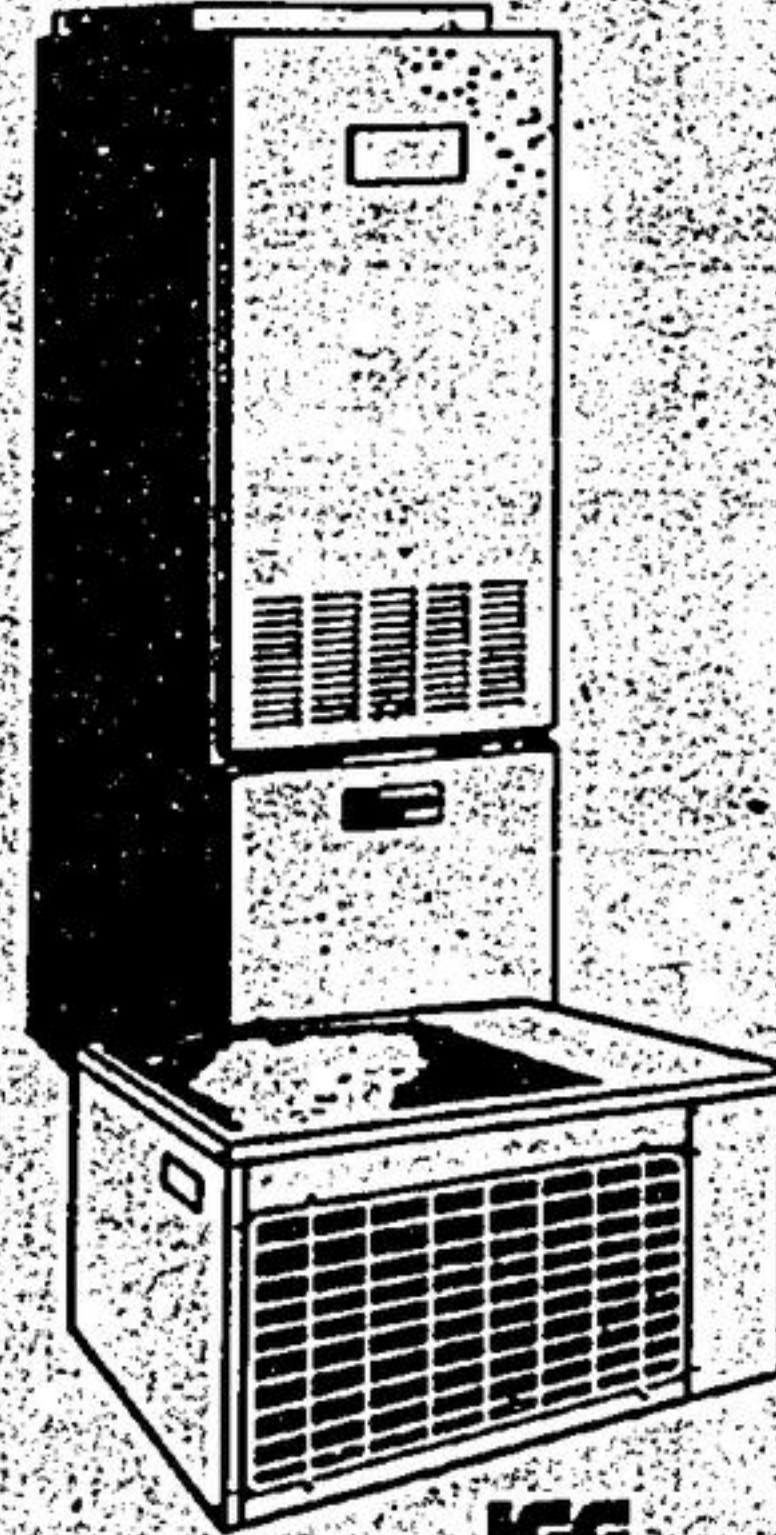
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