

They are NOT the Same!

Opponents of spanking typically equate spanking with parents flying off the handle in anger and committing violence and abuse of the worst kind. They also show a total misunderstanding of its religious roots. Spanking and abuse/violence are not the same thing: they are not even on the same continuum. They are poles apart in origin, motivation, aims, objectives, methodology and outcomes. Open up this brochure to view a full page comparison between spanking and child abuse/violence.



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Spanking vs. Child Abuse & Violence

Our Home...Our Castle



Spanking vs. Child Abuse/Violence

Spanking is spanking, smacking, discipline, or corporal chastisement. **Abuse/Violence** is belting, punching, hitting, beating, kicking or giving someone a hiding.

Spanking is motivated by love and a commitment to the child's best interests. **Abuse/Violence** is motivated by anger, frustration, revenge or some other volatile desire to get back at the child.

Spanking has a methodology of controlled, measured, judicial smacks on the clothed buttocks. **Abuse/Violence** lashes out uncontrollably to strike anywhere, is often inflicted with excessive force and duration and may include the humiliation of undressing the victim.

Spanking has the objective of correction and of seeing the child's behaviour brought back into line. **Abuse/Violence** has the objective of punishment—inflicting pain, revenge or humiliation—for bugging the offender beyond his or her own ill-defined limits.

Spanking seeks to restore the parent-child relationship ruptured by the child's unacceptable behaviour. **Abuse/Violence** seeks to relieve the offender's perceived level of 'stress.'

Spanking is applied to a child who consciously submits to the discipline for breaking specified rules of which the child was made aware beforehand. **Abuse/Violence** is perpetrated against a child arbitrarily, at the whim of the perpetrator, often without warning or explanation.

Spanking is the Biblical remedy for expressions of serious spiritual rebellion such as Disobedience, Dishonesty, Disrespect and Destructiveness. **Abuse/Violence** is dishied out for accidents, mistakes, misjudgments, carelessness, being silly or other expressions of normal physical immaturity or childishness.

Spanking is commended by the Bible as a strategy for parents when training and correcting their children. **Abuse/Violence** is condemned by the Bible as an unacceptable way for anyone to treat children.

Spanking is done in a wider context of active, authoritative parental involvement plus loving and consistent verbal affirmation, admonition and training. **Abuse/Violence** has a context of parental neglect, indulgence or arbitrary, dictatorial authoritarianism, often including impatient and unwarranted verbal abuse.

Spanking has a further context of stable and committed family relationships, the most stable and caring of which is a legally married husband and wife plus their children. **Abuse/Violence** is associated with contexts of unstable and uncommitted family relationships such as de facto set-ups or an unmarried parent with serial 'partners.'

Spanking is done with an eye to increasing the child's developed maturity, understanding, self discipline and independence. **Abuse/Violence** is done to assert the offender's position of control over the child.

Spanking is totally centred on positively contributing to the child's growth and maturity. **Abuse/Violence** is totally centred on restoring the offender's, not the child's, equilibrium.

Spanking is discipline applied to the undisciplined child by a parent/guardian who is more disciplined than the child and who is seeking to be a role model. **Abuse/Violence** is an arbitrary, inconsistent attempt at discipline on the now confused and undisciplined child by one just as or more undisciplined than the child.

Spanking consistently applied is needed less and less each year and rarely after the ages of 8 to 10. **Abuse/Violence**, because it stems from unresolved issues in the life of the perpetrator, can occur at any time.

Spanking produces the peaceful and orderly life of those who have been trained by it. **Abuse/Violence** breeds continuing violence and a lack of self-discipline in those who have been abused by it.

Note: 1. Data from the UK shows that compared with the intact married family, serious child abuse is: six times higher in the step-family, 14 times higher in families with single mothers (divorced and single mothers combined); 20 times higher in families with single fathers (predominantly divorced fathers); 20 times higher with de facto biological parents; and 22 times higher where the mother cohabits with a boyfriend. (Greg Fleming, Managing Director of the Maxim Institute, *New Zealand Herald*, 25 June 2002, 'Parents need secure option before giving up smacking.')