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INTRODUCTION

I wrote this book because my peers see beating their children as a good solution to handling problems. Some feel beating is okay to do sometimes but not all the time. Some see it as a last resort. Others use beating as a tactic to scare children into good behavior, while others just see beating children as a regular run-of-the-mill response when the kids are driving them crazy!

Well, I never saw beating a child solve the real problem. I have seen beating momentarily make children change their behavior, but I have never seen it make them better. The reason for beating children stems from something else. Perhaps the reason can be traced all the way back to slavery and our relationships with our children then. Who is to say? We have to look at our own choices and why we do what we do.

This book explores why beating was and continues to be typical in the Black community. It challenges us to change our behavior and offers tips on how we can do that. Beating Black kids is controversial. It has been happening for a long time and is very accepted in our culture. Many of us laugh it off as adults, but does spanking do what we say it does when we do it? Is it masking something else?

It is time to look at who children are, what they can do and how beating them affects who they become. Many ideas will come together as a result of reading this book. The goal, though, is to get us to look at how we view

Spare the Rod

Spare the rod, you spoil the child. Who wrote that? Yeah I know we can find it in Proverbs 13:24, but who wrote that? I never heard of Jesus beating children with rods. I never heard of Jesus beating children at all. I also do not know how the person who wrote that line in the Bible treated his child. I just cannot see how anything a child does could warrant being beat with an object.

"I became a "born-again" Christian in my early 20's and was still new to learning my new faith when my two daughters were young. At the time, I was working overnight at a New York City law firm as a legal word processor and was very indoctrinated in biblical scripture. One night I came into work and an attorney requested to have on hand a word processor and a proofreader outside his office. My supervisor selected me as the word processor and a coworker who was of the Rastafari faith as the proofreader. Rastafari also relies on biblical scripture, but usually for metaphoric purposes and not literal meanings. He told me that he had seven children and we got on the subject of forms of discipline. You see, based on my religion, I was not only encouraged by the church to utilize corporal punishment as a means of discipline, but sat in sermons that preached that if you spare the rod, your actions are ungodly and sinful, because you are not raising your children correctly. Therefore, I promoted this outlook in the conversation I had with my coworker. He told me that he felt corporal punishment was not godly and that he never laid a hand on his seven children. I then proceeded to say, "But the Bible says..." and he politely