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Grounders:

Discipline and *disciple* share the same root word. The concept is that we surrender ourselves to something or someone, similar to an athlete surrendering his will to a coach. In conflict, our surrender is to God and His wisdom. Proverbs is written for us to gain discipline for wise conflict management (Prov. 1:3). Solomon said that we should love discipline (Prov. 12:1). Race car drivers are among the most disciplined athletes in all of sports. The track of discipline has four turns: ***teaching, training, testing, and transforming***. Each turn must be traveled or discipline does not make a full lap of conflict management.

First, we must *teach* discipline (Prov. 16:20; 1:8). This is defined as “I do. You watch.” Jesus modeled this with His disciples. He first taught them His disciplines by modeling the behavior to them. We should do the same with our children, employees, and teams.

Second, we must *train* in discipline (Prov. 29:19; 6:20-23). This can be stated as, “I do. You help.” Next, Jesus trained his disciples by allowing them to help Him live out His disciplines. We must provide opportunities for our children, employees, and teams to help us.

Third, we must *test* for the discipline (Prov. 8:10). Translated, this is “You do. I help.” Jesus tested His disciples for the discipline by giving them a controlled environment to apply His disciplines. The intensity of experience brought the imperfections of His disciples to the surface, much like heat that refines precious metals draws impurities to the surface (Prov. 17:3; 27:21). Testing our children, employees, and teams helps us discover the areas that need corrected.

Fourth, we must *transform*, or correct, the imperfections (Prov. 13:18). This results in “You do. I watch.” Jesus corrected His disciples when they were missing the mark. Correcting misbehavior is priceless for children, employees, and teams to instill discipline.

Take all four turns and we make a full lap of discipline which creates positive, wise conflict management. Miss a turn, and we hit the wall of God’s parameters, wrecking our relationships.

In Him,
Mitch