

Spanking children for other than prayer

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(Source: Silsilah Liqa'at Al-Baab Al-Maftooh [192])

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Merciful, the Bestower of Mercy

Question: Noble Shaykh, is it permissible to spank the child who is under ten years old for the prayer, and is he to be spanked for other than the prayer, such as for discipline? And at what age can he be spanked?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ)¹: As for spanking him for the prayer, then it is not permissible before the age of ten; for the Prophet (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ)² demarcated it. As for spanking him for discipline then there is no harm in that, even if before the age of ten if he will be benefitted by that and disciplined. What's the third question?

Questioner: So at what age can he be spanked?

Shaykh al-Uthaymeen (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ): Ten. For the prayer, (it is) ten. For other than the prayer then at the age in which he will benefit from being disciplined he can be spanked. The spanking, in all circumstances, is restricted such that it does not cause injury.

¹ (رَحِمَهُ اللهُ) (rahimahullaah) May Allaah the Most High have mercy on him

² (صَلَّى اللهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ) (sallallaahu 'alayhi wa sallam) May the peace and blessings of Allaah the Most High be upon him