

Chapter 1

Orientation

Background of the Study

God is love, which is why as Christian teachers we have to reflect God's love to our students. In 1 John 4: 7 – 8, the bible said that God is love and we have to love each other. When we love each other, it shows that we have been given a new life. God even told us to love our enemies (Matt 5: 44). So it is our job as Christian teachers to teach and discipline our students in Christian ways, in a loving way so that our students can see Jesus through our action and character.

In the reality, many teachers discipline their students wrongly. They use physical punishments, negative comments, and harsh words. As a result, the students may stop their misbehavior but not because they realize their mistake but because they are afraid of the teacher and the punishments. It makes it more difficult for the teacher to get cooperation and it makes the teacher feel more stressed in disciplining the students. Some teachers are too harsh and strict, but some of them are too weak and can be “controlled” by the students.

I am kind of the second kind of teacher. My struggle is that since my first practicum, my mentors said that I am not firm enough and I feel that way also. I always think that being firm always has to do with being strict. So that I feel I can't discipline them. In my last practicum, I learned that firm is not the same as fierce. With my firmness, I can show my care and love to the students. I tried to discipline my students in Lampung and I also tried to be firm, but I still struggle about it.

I bring this issue up because in my last practicum in one of the private school in Lampung, I found that the students always search for a loop hole where the rules can be a bit loose for them. I find it hard when I didn't make a good first impression to the students. Once they know that I'm not that strict, or when I loosen one of my rules, some of the students just take it for granted. The other factor is that they need to be disciplined in school because most of the students did not get a good discipline from their parents.

I know this thing is very important for teachers in classroom, because with being firm, students can respect the teacher more and can be managed easier and the atmosphere of the class will be good as well. But it is hard for me to put my practice into my classes. I want to learn how to discipline my students with love through my personal teaching experience and other resources such as books and internet that can help me in my struggle. As a Christian teacher, I also want to improve the way I discipline my students in class. God's love has to be above all things in my class, including my ways of disciplining them in class. I hope this paper can help me and other teachers who have the same struggle like me to get out from it and become a better teacher who reflects God's love.

Statement of the Problems

What is the purpose of discipline and how can it be best applied and maintained in the classroom? Why is discipline important in the teaching and learning process?

Purpose of the Study

This observation was made so that teachers can know the purposes of gentle discipline before they use it in their classrooms. It is also useful for us to know why this new way of disciplining students is very important rather than the traditional way of disciplining students which consists of punishments and harsh words.

Benefit of the Study

For the teachers, this observation can help them to have a transformational (see the definition of terms below) disciplining ways for their students. It will reduce their stress about students' misbehavior and it also can help them to have a better class atmosphere. Many teachers have a bad relation with their students. They build a wall between them and their students. So, this observation can also help them to be a good communicator for the students and have a well-balanced relationship with their students.

For the students, this observation can help them to have a better class which has a conducive atmosphere to learn. It will help them to make learning more interesting and fun. They also can feel being well treated in class by their teacher. They will have trust in their teacher and students. It will help the class to be cooperative.

Definition of Terms

These are some words that will be used often in this paper, so it is important to know the definition and the contextual meaning for each word in this paper.

The word *applying* here means to create a new ways of discipline in class. The word *maintaining* means to maintain discipline to be consistent. The word *discipline* itself in this paper means discipline doesn't kill freedom. It actually creates freedom (<http://www.child-discipline-with-love.com/definition-of-discipline.html>, n.d.). I believe the only way to make it happen is disciplining our students with love. It will lead us to the phrase "well-balanced relationship". What C. M. Charles means with this phrase is that the teacher and the students have a good relationship which is based on trust. But, it still does not make the teacher-student relationship unimportant. So, in other words, the relationship has to be balanced between teacher as teacher professionally and teacher as their brother or parents or friends both in the classroom and outside the classroom. This was called changing the discipline system. According to Jack Mezirow, transformational learning is defined as a learning which is more focused on the change of the learner. (<http://www.lifecircles-inc.com/Learningtheories/humanist/mezirow.html>, n.d.). So, Mezirow invites us to have a student-centered classroom which is good. We need to focus on students' needs. From Christian point of views, Jenkins said that a transformational education needs a process. Just like us having the process to be like Christ every day. So, transformational means a process of changing our students mind, character, and worldview to be Christ like.

Chapter 2

Review of Literature