

Don't Overkill

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One can kill a mouse with a broom or even a rolled-up newspaper. He can also kill a mouse with a 22 rifle or a shotgun. Then, too, he could kill a mouse with a hand grenade. But if he does, he'll not only get the mouse, he'll get the house!

Some men were arguing about how to kill a hog. Several suggestions were made. Then finally one man convinced them to tie two sticks of dynamite around the hog's head and ignite it. Another argued that more dynamite was needed, but finally they settled on the two sticks.

Attaching a long fuse, they got far enough away so as not to be damaged from the explosion. And a few seconds after the fuse was lit, the dynamite exploded, and the hog completely disappeared. They couldn't even find one of its ears.

The man who argued for four sticks of dynamite rather than two said, "I told you we should have used more dynamite! You see, he got away!"

Don't overkill when disciplining a child. Never discipline one iota beyond the point where you get results. After all, results are what you're seeking. If one tap on

the back of the hand will cause the child to pull the hand back and leave the flower arrangement alone, then one tap is all that's needed. If it takes two taps, then wait a few moments to see if he's going to respond to the first tap before tapping him again.

As soon as you get results, stop.

The same is true when arguing a point. Never say more than you have to say to convince your opponent. Once he sees he's wrong, you need not argue the point any further. To do so only humiliates him and will probably make an enemy for life.

Ball teams have often been accused of running up the score. That simply means, after they had the other team beaten, they left in their best players and continued to score and score until the game became lopsided. The opposing team always feels like they're being taken advantage of in such a case, and they remember such experiences.

The idea is to win, not to humiliate the other team. If you have several good arguments for your case, present the weakest one first. If that doesn't work, then very deliberately and tactfully present your next best argument. If still no success, move on to the third best argument, always saving your best ammunition for last and hoping you'll never need it.

Don't present all your arguments at first, like the rapid fire of a machine gun. Give your first argument time to convince your opponent before moving to your second one.

The preacher trying to convince the congregation must not over prove his point. Sometimes he can use so many verses trying to prove one point that the congregation forgets what he's talking about. It's like the old adage, "They can't see the forest for the trees." Prove your point and support it with Scripture. But don't over-kill.

A preacher was invited to speak at a country church, so he made thorough preparations so as to convince the crowd. As a matter of fact, he overly prepared. However, because of adverse weather conditions, only one man

showed up for the service. And because no one else was there, he suggested they cancel the service. To which the preacher replied, "No, I came to preach, and I'm going to preach." And with that he opened his Bible and preached for about an hour and a half, quoting every verse and using every illustration.

When he finally finished, the old farmer said, Parson, when I take a wagonload of hay out to feed the cows

and only one cow shows up, I don't give her the whole wagonload." Remember, don't overkill.