

Respect for Authority

Introduction

1. **The very first lesson that a young child must learn is “respect for authority.” Without it, nothing worthwhile will ever be instilled in our children.**
 - A. **A child who is not taught obedience in the home usually will have a hard time submitting to authority of any kind.**
2. **Some parents have failed to recognize this and as a result we see children who seem to “run” the home.**
 - A. **They also disrupt school, and even take over Bible class. In the end, children that don’t learn “respect for authority” lose their souls.**
 - 1) **Why? Usually because parents have never taught this very important first lesson to them!**
3. **The home should be a place where members show respect for parental authority, civil authority, and especially the law of God.**
 - A. **Respect for all authority first begins in the home, carries over to school, the streets, and in the church.**

Parental Authority

1. Children must first be taught respect for parents.

Ephesians 6:1-2 1 Children, **obey your parents in the Lord**, for this is right. Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:

A. Children who listen to instruction and abide in the law of their parents find that they are things to be treasured.

Proverbs 1:8-9 My son, **hear the instruction of your father**, and **do not forsake the law of your mother**; For they will be a graceful ornament on your head, and chains about your neck.

Proverbs 6:20-21 My son, keep your father's command, and do not forsake the law of your mother. **Bind them continually upon your heart**; Tie them around your neck.

- 1) **This obedience should flow not only from the feeling of love, gratitude and esteem for their parents, but especially from reverence for the Lord (AS TAUGHT!)**

2. **In many regards, we live in a child-oriented society which has been profitable to neither children nor parents.**
 - A. **The father is often times a bread-winner, with no say-so in the affairs of his children (Who's fault is that?)**
 - B. **The mother is a glorified maid, expected to desist from meddling in the business of her children. WHAT IS THE RESULT?**
 - 1) **Youngsters rule and the parents become the slaves.**
 - a) **Age is demeaned, inexperience exalted, wisdom ignored, discipline ridiculed, and controls scoffed at.**
 - C. **Who brought on this calamity? THE PARENTS DID!**
3. **Parents MUST establish their authority over the child. Notice what God plainly teaches what parents MUST do.**

Colossians 3:20 Children, **obey your parents in all things**, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:22-23 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body.

Ephesians 6:4 And you, fathers, **do not provoke your children to wrath**, but **bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord**.

A. Parents must be consistent in attitudes and expectations.

- 1) It is irresponsible to allow your child to get by with challenging your authority, a small child or teenager!**
- 2) We have the OBLIGATION to God and to the child to correct incorrect behavior.**

Proverbs 13:24 **He who spares his rod hates his son**, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

- 3) The rebellious son of Deuteronomy 21:18-21 was stoned to death because he was incorrigible. How does he get that way today? Not being corrected in the formative years! (Ages 1-6 are critical)**

Civil Authority

1. Children must be taught to obey the laws of the land.

1 Peter 2:13-15 Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and for the praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men--

A. Everyone is under obligation to obey governmental authority. The Caesars, who were generally corrupt and evil, were reigning in Rome; yet by inspiration, Paul wrote: "Be subject to the higher powers."

1) The only exception is when authority conflicts with spiritual law.

Acts 5:29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: **We ought to obey God rather than men.**

B. Those who rebel against civil law is a rebel against the divine law.

1) Government is an ordinance of God. To disobey civil law indicates an undisciplined life that leads to vice and dissipation.

Divine Authority

1. **We looked earlier at the fact that parents are to “nurture” their children, causing them to grow and develop in the “chastening and admonition of the Lord.”**
 - A. **Unfortunately this has become a neglected duty. It brings irreparable and immeasurable injury to children.**
 - 1) **Parents commit a great sin against their children by failing to lead them to love and obey the Lord!**
 - B. **We have the power to shape our children’s eternal destiny. This responsibility is taken much too lightly by most.**
2. **We parents must anchor our children in the faith if they are to stand against social pressures, regarding activities and dress.**
2 Corinthians 6:14-17
 - A. **If we really love our children’s soul we will make sure we teach them that they are different from those around them and that they cannot compromise that difference.**
 - 1) **It starts by placing the emphasis on SALVATION and not recreation or the material things of life.**
 - a) **They must realize that the grave is not the end.**

Ecclesiastes 12:1 **Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth,** before the difficult days come, and the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them":

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

3. We should teach our children as the children of Israel were commanded to teach under the law of Moses.

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall **teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

A. The words were to be “in your heart.”

B. Parents were to teach it “diligently to your children.”

1) This means with painstaking care - a soul is at stake!

4. All the education man receives in this life is without a true foundation unless it is based upon a knowledge of God and the principles of the Bible.

Proverbs 4:5-8

A. A love for the truth is what we must ensure that our children have, along with an attitude of complete submission to God.

2 Thessalonians 2:10 and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, **because they did not receive the love of the truth**, that they might be saved.

5. Parents, giving our children good instruction while at the same time setting a bad example will only prove hypocritical and they will SEE IT!

A. May we all strive to teach our young children to respect God’s Word now (THEY’RE ONLY HERE FOR AWHILE).

Conclusion

- 1. We parents, Christians, and children need to take a hard look at this whole business of authority and how it affects the welfare of our homes, schools, churches, nation, and our individual life.**
- 2. May we as parents strive to pray to God, seeking wisdom in the proper rearing of our children.**
- 3. Respect for authority must be taught, and it must first be taught by parents at home!**
 - A. Are you doing what God has asked of you as a parent?**

