

# BIBLICAL PARENTING 101

## Week 2: The Basics of Biblical Parenting

### 1. Authority and Responsibility in the World (See Handout)

### 2. The Basics of Parenting in Ephesians 6:1-4

#### Basic Responsibilities of Children:

- Obedience (vs 1) and Honor (vs 2)

#### *Reasons or motivations for the commands:*

1) In the Lord (vs 1a)

Malachi 1:6: “A son honors his father, and a servant his master. Then if I am a father, where is My honor? And if I am a master, where is My respect?” says the LORD of hosts.”

2) It is morally right and fair (vs 1b)

3) God commands it (OT quote vs. 2 – the 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment in Exod. 20:12)

4) Personal benefit/ reward promised (vs. 3)

The fountain (source or root) of genuine obedience and honor comes from the heart as it is rooted in both love and fear of God (first of all), and parents.

The streams (fruit) of genuine obedience and honor is respect for parental authority (while under the roof) and later their needs (when old and dying—cf. Matt. 15:4-6).

#### *Definition of Obedience*

A willing submission of a child’s heart to the parental authority God has placed in their life.

#### *Principle of parental obedience and honor in Proverbs:*

Prov. 1:8; 6:20-23; 13:1; 23:22; 30:11, 17

See also Matt. 19:19; Mark 10:19; Luke 18:20; 1 Tim. 5:4

#### *Examples of children obeying parents:*

Jacob obeys parents – Gen. 28:7

David obeys Jesse – 1 Sam. 17:20

Esther obeys her uncle Mordecai – Esther 2:20 (cf. Esther 2:7)

Jonadab’s sons – Jer. 35:14, 18-19 (note Jonadab was blessed by obedient sons)

Jesus obeyed Joseph and Mary – Luke 2:51

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## **Basic Responsibilities of Parents:**

- Exercise Loving Authority (implied by vss 1-3 and larger context)
- Discipline and Instruction (vs 4)

Parental love and authority work together.

William Gouge says, "Love, like sugar, sweetens fear, and fear, like salt, seasons love."

### ***Authority and the Battle of Wills***

The basic impulse of sin is to be your own God, your own authority, to buck God's authority and the authority of everyone else. When a sinner comes to Christ for salvation "they no longer live for themselves" (2 Cor. 5:15). There is a fundamental change of allegiance from self to Christ.

Authority is the most important heart issue for every child. You are never just dealing with words and actions. You are dealing with the fundamental desires of the heart. It is essential to establish who is in charge early on, the moment the first signs of resistance occur.

Abusing authority is just as dangerous as no authority (See Matt. 20:25).

Children must experience both a FIRM and a LOVING hand.

REMEMBER: You are both (1) under and (2) a representative of God's authority (Eph. 6:4).

Your responsibility is to put your home under the Lordship of Christ and point your children to Him. Otherwise, you "**provoke your children to anger**" and facilitate their natural bent toward rebellion. How you exercise your authority gives them a picture of God.

### ***Discipline and Instruction***

Discipline = Training in a structured environment that includes encouragement as well as reproof and correction (via disciplinary measures) when disobedience occurs.

See Hebrews 12:4-11

Instruction = "To place or set in the mind" meaning to establish truth in the heart and mind. Of course, the Bible is our instruction manual.

Instructing our children includes helping them see why they act the way they do. They must see their corrupt hearts and be pointed to Christ. Therefore, fruitful discipline must be accompanied by instruction. We don't just dish out discipline, otherwise children will not understand the bigger spiritual issues that are at the heart of their lives.