

**PARENTING BY THE BOOK**  
**PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE**

**1. REVIEW**

A. "CHILDREN MUST BE **TAUGHT TO OBEY**. THEY DO **NOT** COME **PRESET TO OBEY**... THEY COME **PRESET TO DISOBEY**. **THEREFORE, OBEDIENCE MUST BE TAUGHT.**" - DR. STEPHEN LAWSON

B. "THE CHALLENGE OF **TEACHING** CHILDREN TO **OBEY** FROM THE **HEART** IS **TO GIVE THEM A NEW HEART.**" - DR. STEPHEN LAWSON

C. **ALL PARENTS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO OBEY... AND OFTEN!**

1. **YET... SOMETIMES IN OUR QUEST FOR OBEDIENCE WE WILL SETTLE FOR COMPLIANCE.**

2. **NOTE... THEY ARE NOT THE SAME.**

a. **HOWEVER, THEY CAN LOOK LIKE THE SAME THING.**

3. **BUT... OBEDIENCE INCLUDES THE WILLFUL SUBMISSION TO AN AUTHORITY.**

a. **CHILDREN CAN BE COMPLIANT FOR REASONS OTHER THAN A DESIRE TO WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO AN AUTHORITY.**

1) **EXAMPLES = FEAR AND REWARD**

D. **COMPLIANCE vs OBEDIENCE**

1. **COMPLIANCE = HAVE TO**

a. **OBEDIENCE = WANT TO**

2. **COMPLIANCE = OUTSIDE IN = COMPULSION**

a. **OBEDIENCE = INSIDE OUT = DESIRE**

3. **COMPLIANCE = OFTEN OUT OF FEAR**

a. **OBEDIENCE = OFTEN OUT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION.**

4. **COMPLIANCE = FORCED MODIFICATION**

a. **OBEDIENCE = HEART ORIENTATION**

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E. IN THIS FIRST SECTION “**CHILDREN**” ARE ADMONISHED TO “**OBEY**” THEIR “**PARENTS**”.

1. IN THE NEXT SECTION “**CHILDREN**” ARE ADMONISHED TO “**HONOR**” THEIR “**PARENTS**”.

2. Ephesians 6:2 (NASB) **HONOR** YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

A. **NOTE: THERE ARE NO QUALIFIERS IN THE COMMAND TO “HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER”.**

1. **NOT...** “**HONOR** YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER” **IF** THEY ARE COOL, **IF** YOU LIKE THEM, **IF** YOU AGREE WITH WHAT THEY SAY, OR **IF** OTHER PARENTS MAKE THE SAME REQUESTS.

B. **NOTE: IF YOU HAVE A NEW AMERICAN STANDARD BIBLE, WHICH PAUL USED!... YOU WILL NOTE THAT THE COMMAND TO “HONOR” IS IN ALL CAPITAL LETTERS.**

1. IN THE **NASB** BIBLE THAT MEANS IT IS A **QUOTE FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT.**

C. “**CHILDREN**” are to:

1. “**OBEY**” ... THAT IS THE **ACTION... AND**

2. “**HONOR**” ... THAT IS THE **ATTITUDE BEHIND THE ACTION.**

a. IT IS A **ONE-TWO PUNCH!**

b. **NOT, EITHER OR... IT IS BOTH.**

c. IT IS **OBEDIENCE FROM THE HEART** THAT **HONORS** FATHER **AND** MOTHER.

D. THE HEBREW WORD FOR “**HONOR**” = KAVOD

1. IT MEANS TO “**GLORIFY**” YOUR **FATHER... TO “GLORIFY” YOUR MOTHER.**

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- a. **NOT IN THE SENCE OF DEITY... BUT THAT CHILDREN'S ATTITUDE SHOULD BE TO HOLD THEIR PARENTS IN THE VERY HIGHEST REGARD = TO REVERE THEM.**
- 2. **"HONOR" IS THE ATTITUDE BEHIND THE ACTION OF "OBEY".**
- E. **SOOO... TO "DISOBEY" MOM... IS TO "DISOBEY" DAD... IS TO "DISOBEY" CHRIST... IS TO "DISOBEY" THE WORD OF GOD!!!**
- F. **"which is the first commandment with a promise"**
  - 1. **IT IS THE ONLY COMMANDMENT WITH A PROMISE!**
- G. **"SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU"**
  - 1. **IN THE OLD TESTAMENT (NOT THE NEW TESTAMENT) IF "CHILDREN" "DISOBEYED" OR "DISHONORED" THEIR "PARENTS"... THEY SUFFERED THE DEATH PENALTY!**
    - a. **Exodus 21:15;17 (NASB)** "He who **strikes** his father or his mother shall **surely be put to death**... "He who **curses** his father or his mother shall **surely be put to death**.
    - b. **Deuteronomy 21:18-21 (NASB)** "If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son **who will not obey his father or his mother**, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is **stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us**, he is a glutton and a drunkard.' "Then all the men of his city shall **stone him to death**; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and **all Israel will hear of it and fear**.
    - c. **YOU CAN ONLY IMAGINE HOW SIBLINGS AND OTHERS IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD RESPONDED WHEN ABBE GOT STONED!**
      - 1) so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and **all Israel will hear of it and fear**
      - 2. ... THAT IS **WHY**, IN OLD TESTAMENT DAYS, GOD'S WORD SAYS IT WILL **"BE WELL"** WITH CHILDREN WHO **"HONOR"** THEIR **"PARENTS"**.
- H. **"AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH"**

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- I. THAT IS A FURTHER EXPLANATION OF “**SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU**”.
- J. **NOTE: “OBEDIENCE” IS FOR “CHILDREN” WHILE THEY ARE LIVING AT HOME.**
1. “**HONORING**” IS TO BE LIFELONG.
    - a. AS LONG AS THEY ARE LIVING ON EARTH, “**CHILDREN**” ARE COMMANDED TO “HONOR” THEIR “PARENTS”.
  3. **Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
    - A. **NOTE: IN THIS VERSE THERE IS A NEGATIVE DENIAL AND A POSITIVE ASSERTION.**
      1. GREAT TEACHERS OFTEN BEGIN WITH THE NEGATIVE AND THEN STATE IT IN THE POSITIVE SO THAT THERE CAN BE NO MISUNDERSTANDING OF WHAT THEY MEAN.
      - B. THE NEGATIVE DENIAL: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger”
      - C. PAUL KNOWS THAT IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A “**FATHER**” TO BE TOO HEAVY-HANDED, TOO IMPATIENT, TOO OVERBEARING, TOO DEMANDING, TOO SEVERE, AND FOR THE PUNISHMENT TO FAR OUTWEIGH WHATEVER THE CRIME WAS.
        1. AND, IF THAT OCCURSS, IT CAN “PROVOKE THE CHILD TO ANGER”.
        2. IT’S LIKE POURING GASOLINE ON A FIRE = A POINT OF DIMINISHING RETURNS WHERE THE “**FATHER**” IS ACTUALLY MAKING THE SITUATION WORSE.
      - D. IN THESE SITUATIONS, THE “**FATHER**” IS ACTUALLY EXASPERATING THE SITUATION WHEN SOME PATIENCE, GENTLENESS, AND UNDERSTANDING MIGHT “HELP THE MEDICINE GO DOWN”.
        1. PLAY MARY POPPINS
      - E. **Proverbs 15:2 (NASB)** The tongue of the wise makes knowledge acceptable, But the mouth of fools spouts folly.
        1. IT’S NOT JUST WHAT YOU SAY “FATHERS” ... IT’S HOW YOU SAY IT THAT’S ALSO IMPORTANT.

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2. "THE TONGUE OF THE WISE" ... KNOWS **HOW** TO SAY WHAT NEEDS TO BE SAID IN A **WAY TO GET THEIR POINT ACROSS**.
- F. IN THAT REGARD, PARENT'S NEED TO REMEMBER THAT **GOD HAS MADE EACH OF OUR CHILDREN COMPLETELY DIFFERENT**.
1. WITH SOME CHILDREN A STRICT LOOK CAN MELT THEIR HEARTS...
    - a. WITH OTHERS IT MAY TAKE A RAP ON THE REAR TO GET THEIR ATTENTION.
      - 1) SO... PARENTS MUST UNDERSTAND WHAT IT WILL TAKE TO GET EACH CHILD'S ATTENTION... BECAUSE THEY ARE ALL **INDIVIDUALLY WIRED BY GOD**.
  2. **Colossians 3:21 (NASB)** Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.
    - a. THAT WOULD BE ILLOGICAL AND COUNTERINTUITIVE.
- G. THE **POSITIVE ASSERTION**: "**but** bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord"
- H. "**BRING THEM UP**" LITERALLY MEANS "**TO FEED THEM**"
1. THE IDEA IS THAT "**FATHERS**" ARE TO NURTURE THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR "CHILDREN".
    - a. "**FATHERS**" ARE NOT TO DROP THEIR "**CHILDREN**" OFF SOMEPLACE AND LET THE SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER, OR THE COACH OR WHOEVER TAKE CARE OF NURTURING THE DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR "CHILDREN".
  2. EVEN **JESUS**, IN HIS HUMANITY, HAD TO "**BROUGHT UP**".
  3. **Luke 2:41-42;45;51-52 (NASB)** Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. And when He became twelve, they went up *there* according to the custom of the Feast; <sup>45</sup> When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him. <sup>51</sup> And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **He continued in subjection to them**; and His mother treasured all *these* things in her heart. **And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men**.
    - a. "**WISDOM**" = MENTAL
    - b. "**STATURE**" = PHYSICAL
    - c. "**IN FAVOR WITH GOD**" = SPIRITUAL
    - d. "**IN FAVOR WITH MEN**" = SOCIAL

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1) JESUS DEVELOPED MENTALLY, PHYSICALLY, SPIRITUALLY, AND SOCIALLY.

2) ... AND HIS PARENTS WERE A PART OF THAT PROCESS.

I. "DISCIPLINE OF THE LORD"

1. "DISCIPLINE" IS A COMPREHENSIVE WORD AND HERE IT MEANS ALL TEACHING AND TRAINING.

a. WHICH INCLUDES TEACHING OUR CHILDREN, AMONG OTHER THINGS, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY, SELF-CONTROL, A WORK ETHIC, SOCIAL SKILLS, PERSONAL DISCIPLINE, AND THE GOSPEL.

b. STORYTIME: TWO TEXAS FARMERS TALKING ON THE SIDE OF THE ROAD:

1) ONE FARMER WAS RATHER EASY ON HIS BOYS... THE OTHER WORKED HIS BOYS HARD TEACHING THEM HOW TO RAISE CROPS AND LIVESTOCK.

2) FIRST FARMER: WHY ARE YOU SO HARD ON YOUR BOYS BY MAKING THEM RAISE CROPS AND TAKE CARE OF THE LIVESTOCK.

3) SECOND FARMER: "I'M NOT RAISING CROPS... I'M RAISING BOYS!"

J. "INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD"

1. "INSTRUCTION"

2. THE GREEK WORD FOR "INSTRUCTION" IS "NOUTHESIA"

a. IT MEANS TO PUT INTO THE MIND AN ADMONITION REGARDING IMPROPER CONDUCT... A CONFRONTATION OVER IMPROPER CONDUCT.

1) THERE WILL BE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES FOR WRONG DECISIONS.

3. "OF THE LORD"

a. THE IDEA IS THAT THE "INSTRUCTION" THAT THE "FATHER" IS GIVING IS FROM THE LORD = TRUTH THAT IS COMING DOWN FROM THE LORD HIMSELF.

b. "INSTRUCTION" HAS TO BE MORE THAN, "BECAUSE I SAID SO".

c. "IT IS ONLY BY MAKING GOD THE TEACHER ON WHOSE AUTHORITY EVERYTHING IS TO BE BELIEVED; AND IN OBEDIENCE TO WHOSE WILL EVERYTHING IS TO BE DONE." - CHARLES HODGE

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- d. IN THAT SCENARIO THE PARENT IS MERELY THE MOUTHPIECE AND MEDIATOR OF GOD'S WORD.
4. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WAS GATHERED BY A TEAM OF SOCIOLOGISTS ATTEMPTING TO CALCULATE THE INFLUENCE OF A FATHER (AND A MOTHER) ON THE LIVES OF THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN BACK TO THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY.
- A. MAX JUKES... WAS AN UNBELIEVER WHO MARRIED AN UNBELIEVER AND AMONG THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN THERE WERE:
1. OVER 440 LIVES OF OUTRIGHT DEBAUCHERY (INDULGENCE IN SENSUAL PLEASURES)
  2. OVER 190 PUBLIC PROSTITUTES
  3. ABOUT 100 ALCOHOLICS
  4. OVER 130 CONVICTED CRIMINALS
  5. OVE 60 HABITUAL THIEVES
  6. 7 MURDERERS
  7. NOT A SINGLE ONE MADE ANY IDENTIFIABLE POSITIVE CONTRIBUTION TO SOCIETY.
  8. IN TOTAL THEY COST THE STATE OF NEW YORK AN ASTRONOMICAL AMOUNT OF MONEY IN PRISON EXPENSES, LEGAL EXPENSES, HOSPITAL EXPENSES, REHABILITATION EXPENSES, AND POLICE COSTS.
- B. JONATHAN EDWARDS... WAS A NOTED PASTOR AND THEOLOGIAN. HE WAS A BELIEVER WHO GREW UP IN A CHRISTIAN HOME AND MARRIED A WOMAN OF EXTRAORDINARY FAITH WHO ALSO CAME FROM A CHRISTIAN FAMILY. AMONG THEIR CHILDREN AND THEIR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN THERE WERE:
1. OVER 300 MINISTERS, MISSIONARIES, AND THEOLOGICAL PROFESSORS.
  2. OVER 120 COLLEGE PROFESSORS
  3. ABOUT 110 ATTORNEYS
  4. OVER 60 PHYSICIANS
  5. OVER 30 JUDGES
  6. 14 UNIVERSITY PRESIDENTS
  7. NUMEROUS GIANTS OF AMERICAN INDUSTRY (IT WAS SAID THAT THERE WAS NO MAJOR INDUSTRY IN EARLY AMERICA THAT WAS NOT FOUNDED BY A DESCENDANT OF JONATHAN EDWARDS)

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8. 3 UNITED STATES CONGRESSMEN

9. 1 VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

5. **CONCLUSION**

A. OF COURSE THERE ARE EXCEPTIONS:

1. OUT OF UNGODLY HOME CAN COME GODLINESS.

2. AND OUT OF A CHRISTIAN HOME CAN COME TOTAL FAILURES.

B. BUT... ON A BROAD SCALE, THE KEY TO SUCCESSFUL PARENTING IS "THE LORD"

1. Joshua 24:15 (NASB) "If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; **but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.**"

2. Psalms 127:1a (NASB) Unless the LORD builds the house, They labor in vain who build it;

3. **WHETHER YOU ARE A MOTHER, A FATHER, OR A CHILD... YOU NEED THE LORD!**