

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

OBEDIENCE

1. REVIEW

A. WE BELIEVE THAT THE **BEST WAY TO "GET OBEDIENCE RIGHT"** IS FOR **PARENTS TO TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN TO OBEDIENCE.**

1. THAT MEANS THAT **OBEDIENCE MUST BE TAUGHT!!!**

2. **TEACHING** TAKES:

- a. **TIME**
- b. **PATIENCE**
- c. **DETRMINATION**
- d. **ENCOURAGEMENT**
- e. **TEAMWORK.**

3. **NOTE: PARENTS ARE RARELY SUCCESSFUL AT TEACHING CHILDREN OBEDIENCE WHEN THEY DEMAND OBEDIENCE BY:**

- a. **THREATENING,**
- b. **BRIBING**
- c. **NEGOTIATING... IN ORDER TO GET OUR CHILDREN TO OBEY.**

B. **DISOBEDIENT BEHAVIOR IN CHILDREN IS NOT A MYSTERY!**

1. CHILDREN ARE OFTEN **LED INTO INSUBORDINATION BY PARENTS WHOSE INSTRUCTION HAS NO RESOLVE BEHIND IT.**

- a. **MANY TIMES THOSE CHILDREN WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF PARENTAL UNCERTAINTY, AND ASSERT THEIR OWN WILL.**

2. **THREE WAYS TO MAXIMIZE THE SUCCESS OF YOUR INSTRUCTIONS:**

A. **PROVIDE A FIVE MINUTE WARNING**

1. **NOTE: SOMETIMES (NOT ALL THE TIME) THE TIMING OF THE PARENTAL INSTRUCTION IS AS IMPORTANT AS THE INSTRUCTION ITSELF.**

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2. **INSTRUCTIONS THAT INTERRUPT OR TERMINATE A CHILD'S ACTIVITY SHOULD BE PRECEDED BY A WARNING.**
 - a. AT THOSE TIMES PARENTS WHO FAIL TO CONSIDER THE TIMING WILL "EXASPERATE" THEIR CHILDREN.
 - 1) EXASPERATION IS THE ENEMY OF OBEDIENCE.
3. THEREFORE, THERE ARE SOME TIMES WHEN IT IS APPROPRIATE FOR PARENTS TO PROVIDE WHAT IS KNOWN AS A "FIVE MINUTE WARNING".
 - a. "FIVE MINUTE WARNINGS" HELP CHILDREN TO PREPARE EMOTIONALLY TO COMPLY TO PARENTAL INSTRUCTION WHEN THEY ARE PHYSICALLY, MENTALLY, OR EMOTIONALLY INVOLVED IN ANOTHER ACTIVITY.
 - b. "FIVE MINUTE WARNINGS" (OR 8 MINUTES, OR 10 MINUTES) HELP REDUCE THE TENSION BETWEEN THE CHILD'S DESIRE TO CONTINUE WITH THEIR ACTIVITY AND THEIR NEED TO COMPLY WITH PARENTAL INSTRUCTION.
 - 1) **EXAMPLES:** WHEN YOUR CHILD IS...
 - 2) WATCHING A FAVORITE TELEVISION PROGRAM.
 - 3) PLAYING WITH FRIENDS.
 - 4) DOING SOMETHING ELSE YOU HAVE INSTRUCTED THEM TO DO.
 - 5) IN THE MIDDLE OF A PROJECT.
 - 6) READING A BOOK.
 - 7) ... **DISCUSS** OTHER EXAMPLES.
4. WHAT HAPPENS IF THE CHILD CONTINUES THEIR ACTIVITY BEYOND THE "FIVE MINUTE WARNING"?
 - a. **CONSEQUENCES!**

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5. **AVOIDING “EXASPERATING” OUR CHILDREN BY GIVING THEM A “FIVE MINUTE WARNING” DOES NOT MEAN COMPROMISING THE STANDARD OF OBEDIENCE... BUT WORKING WISELY WITH IT.**
 6. **DISCUSSION: ON “FIVE MINUTE WARNINGS”**
- B. PROVIDE A DOOR OF ESCAPE**
1. **PARENTS MUST TEACH THEIR CHILDREN TO LOOK FOR THE “DOOR OF ESCAPE” WHEN THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO DO THE WRONG THING (SIN).**
 2. **1 Corinthians 10:13 (NASB) No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.**
 - a. **GOD NEVER ALLOWS A TEMPTATION TO SIN COMING FROM THE 3 ENEMIES OF OUR SOUL (THE WORLD, OUR FLESH, AND THE DEVIL/ DEMONS) WITHOUT PROVIDING A “DOOR OF ESCAPE”.**
 3. **WHEN PARENTS ARE TEMPTED TO SIN... AN APPEAL TO JESUS (OUR AUTHORITY FIGURE) CAN BE OUR “DOOR OF ESCAPE”:**
 - a. **“JESUS PLEASE HELP ME...!”**
 - b. **“DEAR LORD PLEASE GIVE ME STRENGTH NOT TO _____.**
 - c. **“IN ESUS’ NAME I GIVE NO CONSENT TO THAT THOUGHT”.**
 4. **WHEN OUR CHILDREN ARE TEMPTED TO SIN... APPEALING TO A PARENT (THEIR AUTHORITY FIGURE) FOR HELP/INTERVENTION CAN BE THEIR “DOOR OF ESCAPE”.**
 5. **EXAMPLE:**
 - a. **TWO SIBLINGS ARGUING OVER A TOY.**
 - 1) **BEFORE USING FORCE, THE “DOOR OF ESCAPE” IS FOR THE MORE MATURE CHILD TO TAKE THE CONFLICT TO A PARENT... THE ONE WHO CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT.**

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- 2) **NOTE: THIS BEHAVIOR MUST BE TAUGHT.**
- 3) **TEACHING OUR CHILDREN TO LOOK FOR THE “DOOR OF ESCAPE” BEFORE DOING THE WRONG THING IS GREAT TRAINING TO LOOK TO JESUS AS THEIR “DOOR OF ESCAPE” LATER IN LIFE WHEN THEY ARE TEMPTED TO SIN.**

C. **REMEMBER CONTEXT**

1. **IN TEACHING OBEDIENCE TO CHILDREN, PARENTS MUST GUARD AGAINST CROSSING OVER INTO LEGALISM.**
2. **LEGALISM SEES ALL DECISIONS AS EITHER BLACK OR WHITE... MORAL OR IMMORAL... RIGHT OR WRONG.**
 - a. **LEGALISM DOESN'T ACKNOWLEDGE HEART OR MOTIVE AREAS.**
 - b. **LEGALISTS TEND TO DEMAND THAT THE CONSCIENCES OF EVERYONE BE IDENTICAL TO THEIRS.**

D. **YOU HAVE HEARD IT SAID, “KEEP THINGS IN CONTEXT”.**

E. **CONTEXT MEANS “THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT FORM THE SETTING FOR AN EVENT, STATEMENT, OR IDEA SO IT CAN BE FULLY UNDERSTOOD”.**

1. **CONTEXT GIVES PERSPECTIVE.**
2. **ONE OF THE MOST NOTABLE CHARACTERISTICS OF A LEGALIST IS THAT THEY REJECT CONTEXT BECAUSE IT DOESN'T MATTER TO THEM.**
3. **PARENTS WHO FAIL TO CONSIDER CONTEXT OFTEN EXASPERATE THEIR CHILDREN!**
 - a. **Colossians 3:20-21 (NASB) Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.**

F. **LEARNING TO LOOK INTO THE CONTEXT OF A SITUATION WILL HELP PARENTS GUARD AGAINST LEGALISM AND THE ABUSE OF PARENTAL AUTHORITY.**

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G. **CONTEXT** ALLOWS OUR **CHILDREN** TO **DO** THE **RIGHT THING** BY **TRAINING THEM TO THE PRINCIPLE... AND NOT THE RULE** THE **PRINCIPLE** REPRESENTS.

3. **PRINCIPLES** THAT HELP PARENTS **ESTABLISH THE CHARACTER OF OBEDIENCE** IN THEIR CHILDREN:

A. **PRINCIPLE 1 – WHEN** PARENTS **SPEAK** TO THEIR **CHILDREN** IN A WAY THAT **REQUIRES AN ANSWER** OR AN **ACTION... THAT PARENT SHOULD EXPECT AN IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE RESPONSE.**

1. **NOTE: “IMMEDIATE AND COMPLETE” IS THE GOAL... BUT MAY NOT BE THE REALITY WITHOUT EXCEPTIONS.**

a. THIS PRINCIPLE SPEAKS TO THE **PARENTS LEVEL OF EXPECTATION... REMEMBERING THAT CHILDREN WILL MOST OFTEN RISE TO THE LEVEL THAT IS EXPECTED... AND ENCOURAGED... AND TAUGHT.**

b. **NOTE: THE GOAL OF FIRST TIME OBEDIENCE IS OFTEN LESS OF AN ADJUSTMENT FOR CHILDREN THAN IT IS FOR THEIR PARENTS!**

1) **DISCUSS: WHY** THAT MIGHT THAT BE SO.

B. **PRINCIPLE 2 – NEVER** **SPEAK** TO YOUR **CHILD** IN A MANNER THAT **REQUIRES AN ANSWER** OR AN **ACTION..... UNLESS YOU INTEND AND EXPECT TO BE OBEYED.**

1. PARENTS **LACK OF EXPECTATION** A GOOD WAY TO **TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN NOT TO OBEY!**

2. THERE IS NO BETTER WAY TO TEACH A CHILD **NOT TO OBEY** THAN TO **GIVE THEM INSTRUCTIONS** THAT YOU DO **NOT INTEND TO ENFORCE.**

a. **WISHING AND HOPING IS NOT A SUCCESSFUL GAME PLAN FOR ANYTHING... ESPECIALLY OBEDIENCE!**

3. **“SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, AND MEAN WHAT YOU SAY”.**

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4. AS A GENERAL RULE, IF YOU WANT YOUR CHILD TO **OBEY**... DO **NOT** BE **CHARACTERIZED** BY STATING YOUR **INSTRUCTIONS** IN THE **FORM** OF A **CHOICE**.

a. "DO YOU WANT TO DO A, OR DO YOU WANT TO DO B?"

b. **DISCUSS**: SOME **EXCEPTIONS**

5. **PARENTAL INSTRUCTIONS** SHOULD BE EITHER:

a. **DIRECTIVE**

1) **TELLING** YOUR CHILD WHAT **TO** DO, **OR**

b. **RESTRICTIVE**

1) **TELLING** YOUR CHILD WHAT **NOT** TO DO

C. **PRINCIPLE 3** – WHEN **CHILDREN CONTINUALLY** **DISOBEY**, THEY ARE IN **SIN**. WHEN **PARENTS CONTINUALLY** **REINFORCE** THAT **DISOBEDIENCE** BY **NOT** **REQUIRING OBEEDIENCE**, THEY ARE IN **SIN**.

1. **Colossians 3:20-21 (NASB)** Children, **be obedient** to your parents in **all things**, for this is **well-pleasing to the Lord**. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

a. **THIS SCRIPTURE IS NOT A SUGGESTION!**

2. **Ephesians 6:1-2 (NASB)** Children, **obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right. **HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER** (which is the first commandment with a promise),

a. **THIS SCRIPTURE IS NOT A SUGGESTION... IT IS THE 5th COMMANDMENT.**

3. **NOTE: OBBEDIENCE AND DISOBEDIENCE ARE MORAL ACTS... NOT INDIVIDUAL PREFERENCES.**

a. **JUDICIAL PARENTING DOES NOT ALLOW PARENTS TO REWARD SIN BY DOING NOTHING ABOUT IT.**

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b. PARENTS MAY OVERLOOK SMALL FAULTS... HOWEVER, PARENTS
SHOULD NEVER CONSIDER WILLFUL DEFIANCE... "SMALL".