

AUTHORITY – THE SUPREME COURT IS NOT SUPREME

Matt 28:18; Lk 7:1-10; 1Tim 2:1-3

INTRODUCTION:

- A. The first lesson a child must learn is "respect for authority." Without it, nothing worthwhile will be instilled in our children.
- B. A child who is not taught obedience in the home usually will have a hard time submitting to authority of any kind.
- C. Some parents fail to recognize this and so we see children: "run" the home; disrupt school; and take over Bible class.
 - 1. Children that don't learn "respect for authority" lose souls
 - 2. Why? Usually because parents have not taught this first lesson to them and all kinds of disobedience result
- D. The home should be a place where members show respect for parental authority, civil authority, and Divine authority.

DISCUSSION

I. PARENTAL AUTHORITY:

- A. First lesson learned is respect for parents. Eph 6:1-2
 - 1. Children who listen to instruction and abide in the law of their parents find that they are things to be treasured. Prov 1:8-9; Prov 6:20-21
 - 2. 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!)
- B. We live in a child-oriented society (which is profitable to neither children nor parents - only merchants).
 - 1. Father just bread-winner, with no say-so in affairs of children (Who's fault is that?)
 - 2. Mother just glorified maid, expected to not meddle in business of children. WHAT IS THE RESULT?
 - a. Youngsters rule and the parents become the slaves.
 - b. Age is demeaned, inexperience exalted, wisdom ignored, discipline ridiculed, and controls scoffed at.
 - 3. Who brought on this calamity? PARENTS DID!
- C. Parents MUST establish authority over the child. Notice what God plainly teaches that parents MUST do. Col 3:20; Eph 5:22-23; Eph 6:4
 - 1. Be consistent in attitudes and expectations.
 - 2. Irresponsible to allow child to get by with challenging authority, small child or teenager!
 - 3. We have OBLIGATION to God and child to correct incorrect behavior. Prov 13:24
 - 4. The rebellious son of Deut 21:18-21 was stoned to death because he was incorrigible. He got that way, by not being corrected in formative years!

II. CIVIL AUTHORITY:

- A. Children must be taught to obey civil law 1Pet 2:13-15

- B. Everyone must obey civil authority. Rom 13:1-7
 - 1. Roman rulers were generally corrupt and evil, yet Paul wrote: "Be subject to the higher powers."
 - a. Only exception is conflict with God's law. Acts 5:29; Acts 4:19
 - b. God must come first in everything Matt 6:33
 - 2. Ones rebelling against civil; rebel against divine law.
- C. Government is God ordained. Civil disobedience indicates undisciplined life that leads to dissipation.

III. DIVINE AUTHORITY:

- A. 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." Eph 6:4 (ASV)
 - 1. A neglected duty; brings irreparable injury to children.
 - 2. Parents commit a great sin against their children by failing to lead them to love and obey the Lord!
 - 3. We have power to shape our children's eternal destiny. This responsibility is taken much too lightly by most.
- B. Parents must anchor children in faith for them to stand against pressures, in activities and dress. 2Cor 6:14-17
 - 1. 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.
 - 2. It starts by placing the emphasis on SALVATION (the spiritual) and not material (sports, recreation, etc) .
 - 3. They must realize that the grave is not the end but the beginning. Eccl 12:1; 2Cor 5:10
- C. We should teach our children as the children of Israel were commanded to teach under the law of Moses. Deut 6:6-7
- D. Education is without a true foundation unless based upon a knowledge of God and principles of Bible. Prov 4:5-8
- E. Love for truth will ensure our children have an attitude of complete submission to God. 2Thess 2:10
- F. Parents, giving children good instruction while setting a bad example is hypocritical and children will SEE IT!
 - 1. May we all teach our children respect for God's Word
 - 2. (After all: THEY'RE ONLY HERE FOR AWHILE).

CONCLUSION:

- A. Everyone must take a hard look at this business of authority and how it affects the welfare of homes, schools, churches, nation, and our individual life.
- B. Parents should pray, seeking wisdom in rearing children.
- C. Respect for authority is taught, and is first taught by parents
- D. Are you doing what God has asked of you as a parent; child;?
- E. As a member of God's family do you respect his will?

Revised outline from Richie Thetford