

RESPECT FOR AUTHORITY

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 never taught this very important first lesson to them!
- D. The home should be a place where members show respect for parental authority, civil authority, and Divine authority.

DISCUSSION

I. PARENTAL AUTHORITY:

- A. Children must first be taught 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. In many regards, we live in a child-oriented society (which has been profitable to neither children nor parents - only merchants).
 1. Father often just a bread-winner, with no say-so in the affairs of his children (Who's fault is that?)
 2. Mother is just glorified maid, expected to not meddle in business of her 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 their 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 your attitudes and expectations.
 2. Irresponsible to allow child to get by with challenging your authority, small child or teenager!
 3. We have the OBLIGATION to God and to the 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 laws of land. 1Pet 2:13-15

1. Everyone must obey civil authority. Rom 13:1-7
2. 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
3. Ones rebelling against civil; rebel against divine law.
4. 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