

The Umbrella of Family Authority



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Introduction: God's arrangement for the family is that the father be the head of the house under God. The wife is to be subject to her husband, and the children subject to their parents. Notice "*Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.*" **Eph. 5:22** "*Children, obey your parents in all things...*" **Col. 3:20**

In the family, God has placed His authority in the parents. Since parents represent God's authority in the home, it is right that they should be obeyed. The Bible says,

"*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*" **Eph. 6:1**

Many times young people would like to change God's Word to suit themselves.

For example:

"Obey your parents... If they are right... If you think they are right... If it does not interfere with what you want to do... If they ask you nicely in a way that satisfies you..."

But the person who wants to please God will not consider these variations. Instead, he will choose to obey his parents because it is right to do so.

The father is the God-appointed head of the family, but he is not to be a dictator. He is to love his wife and children and be an example to them. He is also responsible before God to bring up his children in the ways of the Lord. The Bible says, "*Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave Himself for it.*" **Eph. 5:25**

"*Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.*" **Eph. 6:4**

God's Seven Purposes for Authority

***Faith is the wisdom to see that God works through the authorities
He has placed over our lives and the decision to trust Him to do it.***

- I. Authority produces power, which produces results.
- II. Authority helps end confusion.
"Who do I have to answer to?"... "Who gets to tell me what to do?"
- III. Authority restrains wickedness with fear and brings protection ([15 Danger Signs](#))
- IV. Authority brings blessings to our lives we could not have otherwise.
- V. Authority brings deliverance we could not have otherwise.
- VI. Authority makes us effective in doing God's work
- VII. The right authority protects us against falling under the control of wrong authority.

15 Danger Signs

1. Outsiders living in your home.
2. Immoral "guests" in your home.
3. Things that can produce addictions
4. Jobs that undermine standards
5. Activities with the appearance of evil
6. Clothing that imitates the world
7. Churches that undermine the family
8. Children who disrespect their mother
9. Guilt that is not cleaned up
10. Friends that produce peer dependence
11. Activities that waste resources
12. Presuppositions contrary to truth
13. Goals that teach taking vs. giving
14. Damage to the family name
15. Distractions that hinder priorities

3 Principles of Authority For Parents

There are some principles that the devil does not want us to **hear** and **heed** because it is his plan to fracture our families, because if he can ruin us at **HOME**, he can have victory over us in any other area of our lives.

G.K. Chesterton said, "*We spend the first half of our life fighting with our parents and the second half fighting with our children.*"

America is a spiritual disaster area. And "*when all else fails, read the directions*", consult the Owner's manual, **Prov. 22:6.**

THE CORRECTION PRINCIPLE – it is so much easier to correct them when they are young—so much easier to steer them when they are young. You take a little creek or stream and you can steer it wherever you want, but it is hard to steer the mighty Mississippi. You take a little twig and bend it as you wish, but it is hard to bend an oak tree. You can correct a child, but when he becomes a man, it will be almost impossible to change him.

Prov. 19:18, "while there is hope". Chasten thy son while there is hope".

Prov. 13:24, "betimes" = it literally means **EARLY**. It means you correct them early. "They don't need correcting, they're little angels". But as their 2 legs get longer, you are going to find out their wings get shorter.

THE COMMUNICATION PRINCIPLE – Did you know that little children have a great ability to learn? Why is this?

They have a great **curiosity factor**. **Why**, Daddy? **Why**, Mommy? **WHY?**
Don't put them down for that and don't stop asking so many questions. That is what God built into that child. According to the O.T., when a child would say why are you doing this, you are to tell him. This is the way God set it up. They have a great **memory factor**. It is amazing what the little ones can learn. God has given to them a **humility factor**. God has given to them a **trust factor**. **All** of this is built into those little children. It is a time for correction, for communication. Tomorrow may be too late? **Early is the time!**

THE CONVERSION PRINCIPLE – we ought to pray and see to it that our children are brought to Christ at an early age. I am sick of people playing down childhood conversions like it is wrong to lead a child to Christ. **It is wrong not to lead a child to Christ.** This idea that a child has got to have a Ph.D. in sin to get saved is ridiculous.

Of course, we are not to manipulate a child—or anybody else. We do not **shove** the child or **block** the child. We **guide** the child. And it ought to be perfectly normal and natural that children should come to know the Lord Jesus Christ as their Saviour and Lord if they are raised in a Christian home.

Mark 10:13-15, we sometimes think the little child has to become like an adult, when God says the adult has to become like a little child. And children **could** and **should** be saved at an early age.

Matthew Henry –saved at the age of 11.

Jonathan Edwards – "*Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God*" –saved at age 8.

Charles Haddon Spurgeon – was saved at the age of 12 and said, "*I would have been saved earlier had I had someone to instruct me and guide me.*" He said a child of **5** could as savingly believe as a child of **50**.

Of an entire **board of missionaries**, 90% of them were saved by age 11 and the average age of their conversion was age **8**.

Polycarp was saved at age **9**. He died in the flames for Jesus at age **90**. Sounds to me like there was a childhood conversion that stayed and stuck.

To see our children are saved ought to be the joy of our hearts and to see that they are Spirit-filled to walk and witness for God.