

A GOD-GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY

AUTHORITY & CONTROL

Ephesians 6:1

WEEK 3 – “A God-given Responsibility”

INTRODUCTION

Last week, we focused on *the most important things*. The goal of parenting is to see your child saved from sin and its eternal consequences and then to live a life of loving, faithful obedience to the Lord. Tonight, we will be reminded that the Lord and Creator of the universe has established the divine institution of marriage and the home. And He has placed children under the **AUTHORITY** of their parents. Therefore, parenting is a God-given responsibility. It is a delegated responsibility which means parents are not free to do with their children as they please. The relationship between authority and **CONTROL** is our next focus for this very important study. As usual and as God’s little children, all Christians will benefit from this study.

1. The Principle of Authority

- ✓ God has absolute and complete authority and the right of complete **CONTROL**.

*Psalm 103:19 – The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens;
and his kingdom ruleth over all.*

NOTE Marriage and the home were instituted by our Lord and Creator of the universe. He has absolute authority and the right of total control because of who He is as our sovereign Creator. (**Gen 2; Ps 47:2; 115:3; Dan 4:34; Rom 9:20-21**)

- ✓ Parenting is a God-given **RESPONSIBILITY** and authority.

Ephesians 6:1 – Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

NOTE God’s plan for Adam and Eve was to procreate and fill the earth with sons of God. Marriage, family, and the home are His ideas. In His sovereign will, God has placed children under the authority of their parents. This is God’s order.

- ✓ Parental authority is a **DELEGATED** authority.

*Ephesians 6:4 – And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath:
but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

NOTE Authority is the right to set policy which means the responsibility to bring about controls in our children’s lives within the limits of the authority given by God. Even God’s authority and control is never arbitrary because it is based on His perfect truth and goodness; it is always for the good and blessing of people.

Authority

Authority means the delegated right to rule or lead. It means the power to act, decide, command, and judge.

2. The Principle of Control

- ✓ Controls are needed because of sin and the sinful tendency for **REBELLION**.

Control
The power or ability to regulate or guide. It means to hold back, to restrain, curb or corral. But the goal should always be to promote happy obedience in place of rebellion.

Proverbs 29:15 – *The rod and reproof give wisdom:*

but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

NOTE Why? Because the child reflects on a parent's lack of ability or commitment to discipline, to bring controls into the child's life – that is, *the rod and reproof*.

1 Samuel 15:23 – *For **rebellion** is as the sin of witchcraft,*

*and **stubbornness** is as iniquity and idolatry.*

NOTE Rebellion and stubbornness are satanic in origin; it is insubordination!

- ✓ God has established institutions of authority such as government and the home (chains of command and authority) for the **PROTECTION** of society.

Authorities
God – creation
Govt – citizens
Husband – wife
Parents – child
Pastor – church
Teacher – student
Manager – worker

Romans 13:1 – *Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.*

NOTE These institutions are designed to exercise God's authority within certain boundaries or defined limits in order to restrain the natural tendency in man to exploit and harm others. (**Eph 5:22-23; 6:1-9; Heb 13:7, 17**)

Question: What are some areas of authority where rebellion may occur in life?

- ✓ There are two forms of rebellion that occur in children – **active** and **PASSIVE**.

ACTIVE REBELLION When a child will not listen to or accept parent's instructions.

Manifested by:

- 1) When a child throws a tantrum, responds with a defiant "No!" or rebelliously walks away while a parent is still talking to him.
- 2) When a child continues to play or focuses his attention away from mom or dad or a grandparent when they are talking to him or giving instructions – expressing rebellion.
- 3) When a child will not accept correction. This is evident when he argues with mom or dad, blames it on someone else, or pouts instead of admitting his guilt.

PASSIVE REBELLION When a child meets the external requirements for obedience but is internally resentful. (sitting down on outside, standing on inside)

Manifested by:

- 1) Concealed in a child's attitude, but will eventually surface in their facial expressions, disgust, and/or disrespect.
- 2) A child who politely listens to instructions, but who consistently fails to follow them without reminders, threats, or pressure. (For younger children, they do have short attention spans.)
- 3) A child does what is required, but not in the right way or with the right attitude. Attitude is just as important as the act of obedience. Bad attitudes eventually become open acts of rebellion.

NOTE If rebellion is not dealt with, passive rebellion becomes **REVOLUTION** – the attempt to **overthrow** AUTHORITY.

3. *The Relationship of Authority and Control*

- ✓ Authority means **the responsibility and right** to direct and **CAUSE** another to FOLLOW DIRECTIONS.

Proverbs 29:15 – *The rod and reproof give wisdom:*

but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

NOTE This means the responsibility and right, as necessary, to exercise power to control, restrain, curb, or corral. Said differently, it is the power to bring about pressure to restrain someone from going off course to the left or to the right or from running or living unrestrained as mentioned in this Proverb.

- ✓ Authority means **the responsibility and right** to establish **STANDARDS** that become the measure or the tests for bringing about controls.

Psalms 58:3 – *The wicked are estranged from the womb:*

they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

NOTE Parenting is a God-given responsibility; He has delegated and authorized parents with the responsibility for developing controls in children who are born without controls and who are inherently rebellious, going astray from birth.

As an easily relatable example, BABIES must have **external controls (DIAPERS)** until **internal controls** can be developed (**POTTY** training).

When parents fail to control and then train their children in the various areas of life, it is comparable to failure to use diapers and to never potty train their child. Would you want to face the consequences of a diaper less, un-potty-trained child in your home? Obviously and of course NOT!

But in many other ways, parents fail to establish controls, which have their own detrimental consequences to other family members, to the children themselves, and to others in society.

KEY In essence, many problems in the world today are really **PARENTAL** problems.

4. *Personal Application*

- ✓ What are some areas of AUTHORITY where rebellion may occur in your life?
- ✓ What are some CONTROLS that you need to put in place in your life to stop sin?
- ✓ What are you going to do today to **CHANGE** for God's glory? for your family?