



## Introduction

- Birth to age four or five is dominated by change.
  - There are physical changes.
  - There are social changes.
  - There are intellectual changes.
  - There is spiritual development.

## Understanding Authority

- The most important lesson a child can learn is he or she is an individual under authority. Ephesians 6:1-3
- Obedience is a response to God.
- The main point is they are learning that they are not the center of the universe.
- Submission to parental authority is an application of submitting to God's authority.
- Allowing your children to determine schedules and how the house is run is putting them in authority.

## Honoring Defined

- Honoring means the child treats the parents with respect and esteem because of their position of authority.
- The parent must train the child to honor the parent.
- The parent must be honorable in their conduct and demeanor.

## Obedience Defined

- Obedience means the child does what he or she is told without challenge, without excuse, and without delay.
- You train your child how to obey.
- It is a good thing to help your child obey.
- It is good to try to help them past their rebellion.

## Consistency

- You must challenge disobedience every time.
- Clear directives and reinforcement are essential.
- The child has disobeyed God and the parents have the responsibility to remind the child of that.

## Process of Appeal

- Your children can appeal to authority only after they have learned to submit to authority.
- The appeal process is a safety check in two directions.
- It is a check on capriciousness on your part.
- It is a safety value for your children.



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- There are some guidelines for children for making a biblical appeal.
    1. The child begins to obey immediately, not after appeal.
    2. The child must be prepared to obey no matter the decision.
    3. The child must appeal in a respectful manner.
    4. The child must accept the result of the appeal with a gracious spirit.
  - As a parent you can change your mind when there is a respectful appeal, but not when there is obvious rebellion.

## **Conclusion**

- Submission to authority is foundational for the entire parent-child relationship.