

God's Design for Authority in the Home

WEEK 5

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

- ⇒ What do you think of when you hear the word “authority”?
- ⇒ How do kids today feel about and respond to authority?
- ⇒ How does society respond to authority?
- ⇒ Does God desire that in everything there is authority as well as submission?
 - We limit our ideas of authority to either overwhelming force (someone rules because they have power that cannot be resisted) or ruling by consent (someone rules because the people have given their permission). The Bible teaches that it is good and proper for some people to be in authority and for other people to be under authority.
 - God has designed our world to function inside of a structure of authority and order. Today many homes struggle because in the family authority is being undermined and order has been removed. When that happens, chaos ensues. Today we will look at God's design and plan for order and authority, what it looks like, and how it is to be carried out.
- ⇒ Turn to Psalms 8

1. Hierarchy in Creation

A. God's relationship with mankind – Psalm 8:1-4

- 1) Man is placed under God who thus cares for his creation. One of the chief responsibilities God designed for those who are in authority is to care for those under their authority.
 - † **1 Peter 5:7** — 7; *Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.*
 - † **Matthew 5:45** — 45; *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.*

B. Angles relationship with mankind - Psalm 8:5

- † **Hebrews 1:7** — *And of the angels he saith, Who maketh his angels spirits, and his ministers a flame of fire. Hebrews 1:14 — *Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?**
- † **Psalm 91:11-12** — *For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. They shall bear thee up in their hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.*
- † **Matthew 18:10, Luke 16:22**

C. Mankind's relationship to Creation – Psalm 8:6-8

- 1) How much of creation has God placed man over?
- 2) Who alone were made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27)?
- 3) What did God give man (Genesis 1:28)?

- D. In conclusion, there is a clear hierarchy in the created order as God has assigned responsibilities of leadership in all of creation. God has clearly designed authority and designed that those who are in authority are to care for, provide, and protect those under its authority.

2. Hierarchy in People's relationship with each other

A. Are all people equal in worth and dignity? Yes

- 1) All of man is created equal in the image of God. Paul declared that there is “*no respect of persons with God*” (Romans 2:11), for all are equal in His eyes. But God has established

clear spheres of authority among mankind. It is God's design and plan that man submits to one another.

B. Authority in the workplace - Ephesians 6:5-9

1) "Servants" (workers) are to be obedient to those who are their "masters" (bosses).

- a. "Obedience" here refers to the continuous, uninterrupted submission to one's earthly master or employer. You always do what they ask you to do, and you do it continually.
- b. What kind of attitude should accompany our obedience to our employers?
Fear/trembling; This does not mean a frightfulness but rather a respect and reverence for their position; it means you have a respect for their authority over you.
- c. In "**singleness of your heart**"
 - "Singleness" means "sincerity". It means you don't just do it outwardly, but also do it where? Inwardly.
- d. "**Not with eye service as men pleasers**"
 - This means you are not to just do a good job when you are being watched, for the sake of pleasing men and self-promotion; but rather are to serve from the heart in honor of the Lord and your employer. When done outwardly and not inwardly is rebellious and hypocritical.
- e. **How can this be accomplished – 3 WAYS**
 1. **By Realizing it is the will of God – v. 7**
 2. **By realizing who you are really serving – v. 7**
 - Who are these servants/employees really serving? V. 5c – "as unto Christ"; V. 7b – "as to the Lord"
 - † **Colossians 3:23** – *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men"*
 3. **Realize God will reward your faithful service - v. 8**
 - † **Colossians 3:23-24** – *"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; 24 Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ."*

2) The employer is to care for the employee – v. 9

1. Paul says that "masters" or employers are to do the same things unto them". This means just as the employee is to respect their boss, be as sincere inwardly as they are outwardly in their work, and do their best for their employees, so the employer is also to reciprocate these actions.
2. **Employers must not threaten.**
 - a. Roman masters had the power and lawful authority to kill a slave who was rebellious, though few of them did so. Paul said instead of "threatening them" you need to treat them like you want to be treated.
 - b. **Employers must be submissive to the Lord – "your master also is in heaven".**
 - c. The employer realize you will be judged – **"neither is there respect of persons with Him."** God is no respecter of persons and will judge employers the same as everyone else

C. Authority in the Church

1) God has called for "Elders, Pastors, Bishops (Overseers), to direct the affairs of the Church.

2) What is the responsibility of the Pastor (shepherd)?

- † **1 Peter 5:2–3** — *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock. (Acts 20:26-28; 1 Timothy 5:17-18)*
- † **1 Timothy 5:17–18** — *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. (Luke 10:7)*
- † **Acts 20:26–28** — *Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.*

3) People under their pastor are to submit to their authority, listen and obey the Word of God they proclaim.

- † **Hebrews 13:17** — *Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.*

D. Authority in the state

- 1) God ordained government, civil authority is God's servant and exercises authority that God has given – Romans 13:1-4.
- 2) Civil authority makes laws, defends its citizens, charges taxes (Matt. 22:17-21), and punishes evildoers (1 Pet. 2:14).
- 3) Mankind are to submit to civil government – 1 Peter 2:13-14
 - † **1 Peter 2:13–14** — *Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme; Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.*
 - † **Titus 3:1** — *Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work,*
 - † **Romans 13, 1 Timothy 2:1–2**

E. Authority in the home

- 1) Men are to provide loving leadership to their families as Christ did to the Church. - Ephesians 5:25-33
- 2) Wives are to follow and submit to the leadership of the husband as the Church is to Christ - Ephesians 5:22-24
- 3) Children are to honor and obey their parents – Ephesians 6:1-3

F. Note concerning earthly authorities:

- 1) Obedience to earthly authorities is always subject to obedience to heavenly authority.
- 2) If an earthly authority asked you to do something sinful or wrong, then you are to submit to and obey the higher authority, which is God (Acts 4:18-20, Daniel 3:14-18).

3. God's Design for the Parent-Child Relationship

A. Children are to obey their parents

- Paul gives 3 reasons why children are to obey their parents

1) It is commanded by God

- a. The reasons children are to obey their parents first and foremost is because God commands it. When child obeys their parents, they are obeying who? The Lord

- b. Obedience is an issue of submission to God's authority that causes a child to do what he is told to do by a parent, without arguing, without stalling, and without challenging.
- c. God is extremely serious about children obeying their parents; therefore it is vitally important that parents are also extremely serious about their children's obedience.
- d. **How serious is God about children's obedience to their parents?**

1. **Moses describes how God feels about disobedience – Deut. 21:18-21**

† **Deuteronomy 21:18-21** - "If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them: Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put **evil** away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear."

2. **What is rebellion compared to in I Samuel 15:23? Witchcraft; iniquity, idolatry**

† **I Samuel 15:23a** "For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry...."

3. **The Bible declares that the person who will not submit to authority and follow instruction as a fool.**

† **Proverbs 1:7** — *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.*

† **Proverbs 15:5** — *A fool despiseth his father's instruction: but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*

4. **Who declared parental authority in Matthew 19:19? Jesus**

† **Matthew 19:19** - "Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself."

5. **Obedience is not just in our actions, but also in our attitudes**

a) Attitude has to do with a child "honoring" the authority over them. Kids should not speak to parents as peers. They should not be rude or disrespectful in their tones and words; they must speak in a way that shows honor to God and to their parents whom God has placed in authority in their lives.

b) For children to have the right attitudes about authority, they must recognize it is God's design and desire for that authority to be in their lives (Eph. 6:1, Colossians 3:20, Exod. 20:12, Heb. 12:9 Lev. 19:3).

c) God doesn't just want "lip" service, but sincere obedience (Is. 29:13, Matt. 15:8)

† **Isaiah 29:13** - "Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:"

† **Matthew 15:8** — "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me."

2) It is the right thing to do

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

b. **Colossians 3:20** - "Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

3) It brings God's blessings - Ephesians 6:3a *"That it may be well with thee,..."*

a. Children who learn to live in obedience will be blessed by God as they glorify God in their submission. They will learn joy is not from having their own way, but following the will of God. They will learn that freedom is not being able to do whatever they want to do in life; rather freedom is knowing and loving God and living joyfully under the authoritative structures He has placed in their lives for their good.

† **Psalm 119:44–45** — *"So shall I keep thy law continually for ever and ever. And I will walk at liberty: for I seek thy precepts."*

b. There are also many practical blessings to obedient children. Who do you respond to more favorably, obedient children or unruly children?

- **Imagine planning a family outing with your children.** You are going to spend the day hiking through some rugged and beautiful country and perhaps enjoy an overnight under the stars. You want to invite one or two other children along to be companions and to enjoy the adventure with your family. Who are you going to invite? A child who is wild and unruly? A child who will only listen to you if he happens to agree? A child who will complain when the firewood needs to be gathered? A child who will fight you over each step of the hike? You get the point. You are going to invite a child who is responsive to adult leadership." (Tripp, pg. 87)

B. The Parents are to teach their children – v. 4

1) God expects parents to be the parents

- a. What does this mean?
- b. Can children obey their parents if the parents are not acting in authority?
 - *God tells children to obey the parents, not for parents to obey the children.*
- c. How can parents be leaders and not followers in the home?
 - *Weak and lax leadership on the part of the parent will lead to rebellious children.*

2) What does God tell parents "not" to do in verse 4?

- a. In Paul's day many fathers ruled their families with a rigid and domineering authority and didn't take into consideration the desires and concerns of their wives and children. Here Paul warns the fathers to not be unreasonably strict and overbearing in their leadership, for it will lead to children who can become angry and resentful.
- b. The leadership of the Father needs to be done in strength governed by love and humility, not insensitivity and unkindness. Authority means you are responsible to care for those under your authority.

3) What are parents to do?

† **V. 4** – *"bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."*

- a. What does this mean?
 1. **"Nurture"** means training, education and teaching discipline to children; you are to "aim" them in the right direction; and chasten them when they go off course.
 2. **"Admonition"** means to train children through your words; you encourage and teach them.
- b. So parents are to train, educate, teach, and aim, and encourage their children in the ways of who? the Lord

1. Should the main focus of what a parent does in the lives of their children be what they do for their children spiritually?
2. Does God put more emphasis on the spiritual or on the physical?
3. What do you see happening in society today?
4. What do you see happening in your home?

c. Other key verses: Hebrews 12:6-7, Proverbs 22:6, Deuteronomy 6:4-9

† **Proverbs 22:6** - *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*

† **Hebrews 12:6-7** – *“For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?”*

† **Deuteronomy 6:4-9**

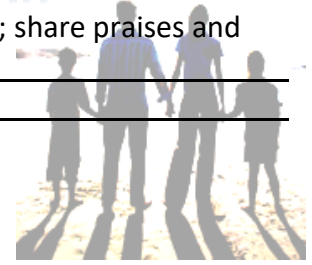
d. Parents, are we teaching our children obedience or disobedience?

1. Does “nagging” our kids teach them obedience or disobedience?
2. Do empty “threats” of punishment teach obedience or disobedience?
 - If they see our words as not meaningful, will they take God’s as meaningful? They then can treat God that way, where words are not meaningful.
3. Can we set a bad example of being rebellious to authority with our lives? If we are not submissive how might that cause our children to be rebellious?
 - Bad example of being rebellious to the authorities in our lives. We cannot teach our kids to respect authority when we are disrespectful to those in authority over us. Kids will not respect coaches, teachers, or preachers who get bad mouthed by parents.

4) God designed kids to be under parental authority because God loves them.

- a. Kids have those in their lives who have been placed there by God who have lived longer, know more, and can guide, teach, protect, provide for, and instruct them in the ways of life. What a wonderful blessing parents are to their children.
- b. Here is a way to describe to your children the importance of boundaries and freedom that they create. Imagine that I observe a sixty-ton locomotive running along the tracks and think to myself, “Look at that powerful locomotive with so much potential. What a shame that it is restricted to the confines of the tracks. Let’s see the locomotive free and allow it to run across the meadow, through the woods, and wherever it would like to go.” How free would the locomotive be? It would quickly become mired in the soft ground of the meadow. The locomotive is free on the tracks. God has laid the tracks for us. You and your children will find the greatest freedom and enjoyment in running freely along those tracks.

Bringing it Home - Family Devotion



- **Open in prayer:** Share praises and prayer requests concerning your parenting; share praises and prayer requests concerning your children. _____

- **Take a few minutes to look back over the lesson together.**
 1. How has God shown his design and desire for authority in creation?
 2. What did we say was one of the chief responsibilities God designed for those who are in authority to have?
 3. What did you learn about hierarchy in people's relationship with each other?
 - A. Which one stood out to you? Why?
 - B. Which one do you see can be a problem or struggle in your life at times?
 - C. What kind of example have you set before your kids to submitting to authority in your life?
 - D. Do you think how you submit to those in authority over you can affect your children?
 - E. Are the reasons adults struggle with submission any different than kids?
 - F. Children can struggle with authority, but so can adults. By understanding this helps us to come alongside our children and grow together in our submission to those in authority over us.
 4. How well do you see your children submitting to those in authority in their lives?
 5. Do you believe your children understand the importance of obeying those in authority in their lives? Do you think they realize how important their obedience is in the eyes of God?
 6. How well do your children obey not only with their "actions" but with their "attitudes". How have you taught them the importance of their attitudes from God's perspective?
 7. Review the final section of the lesson on "God's Design for the Parent-Child Relationship" so you are prepared to share that section of the lesson with your children. Take time to review the responsibility of the parents.

Devotion for Children

1. **Read Psalms 8;** share what you learned about the "hierarchy" God has designed in all of creation.
2. **Read Ephesians 6:1-4**
 - a. What does God ask children to do?
 - b. What is the reason children should obey their parents?

- c. When children obey their parents, who are they really obeying?
 - d. When a child disobeys their parents, who are they disobeying?
3. How do you know God was serious about children obeying their parents according to Deuteronomy 21:18-21?
 4. What does God compare rebellion to in I Samuel 15:23?
 5. Read Proverbs 1:7-8 and 15:5; what does God call someone who doesn't listen to their parents instructions?
 6. What does God tell children to do in Ephesians 6:2?
 7. What does a child's attitude have to do with honoring their parents?
 8. Does your attitude show you honor your parents or dishonor your parents?
 9. What is "well pleasing" to God according to Colossians 3:20?
 10. When a child obeys and honors their parents, what will be the result according to Ephesians 6:3?

Family Devotion

What was your greatest struggle this past week? Why? How did you handle it?

- What areas do you feel like you have grown spiritually this week?
- What is something you feel could hinder you spiritually this week?
- What area do you feel you can do a better job of putting God first place in your life this week?



Weekly Memory Verse

Deuteronomy 6:4–5 — *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5; And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might.*

Daily Faithfulness

Monday

Read Proverbs 4

↳ Write down what God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

Review Memory Verse

Prayer: - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____

- What I need help/strength with today? _____

- Who will I pray for today? _____

Daily Challenge: Who can I pray for in my family today? _____

Tuesday

Read Proverbs 5

↳ Write down what God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

Review Memory Verse

Prayer: - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____

- What I need help/strength with today? _____

- Who will I pray for today? _____

Daily Challenge: Who can you serve today? _____

Weds

Read Proverbs 6

↳ Write down what God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

Review Memory Verse

Weds

- Prayer:** - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____
 - What I need help/strength with today? _____
 - Who will I pray for today? _____
- Daily Challenge:** What is a random act of kindness I can show to my family today? _____

Thursday

- Read Proverbs 7**
 ↳ One thing that God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

- Review Memory Verse**
- Prayer:** - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____
 - What I need help/strength with today? _____
 - Who will I pray for today? _____
- Daily Challenge:** What is something I can give up for God today? _____

Friday

- Read Proverbs 8**
 ↳ One thing that God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

- Review Memory Verse**
- Prayer:** - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____
 - What I need help/strength with today? _____
 - Who will I pray for today? _____
- Daily Challenge:** Who can I encourage today with a call/text? _____

Saturday

- Read Proverbs 9**
 ↳ One thing that God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

- Review Memory Verse**
- Prayer:** - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____
 - What I need help/strength with today? _____
 - Who will I pray for today? _____
- Daily Challenge:** Who has been missing Church I can reach out to today? _____

Sunday

- Read Proverbs 10**
 ↳ One thing that God's Word spoke to you about today: _____

- Review Memory Verse**
- Prayer:** - What am I specifically thankful for today? _____
 - What I need help/strength with today? _____
 - Who will I pray for today? _____
- Daily Challenge:** Who can I encourage at Church today? _____