Teaching Children Obedience

Mark Roberts · Ephesians 6:1 · Series: **Built to Last - Strong Families**

INTRODUCTION

- Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- Children learn to obey God by learning to obey mom and dad. That's how that works. That's where everything starts.

1 Obedience Is Submitting to the Authority of God

Matthew 8:8–9; 2 Thessalonians 1:7

- Obedience means that I'm going to submit myself to the authority of God, and I'm going to do what God says.
- For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, go and he goes, and to another come and he comes.
- He is God, and we are not. And that means that God has the right to command, and we are expected to do as God tells us to do.
- Am I teaching my children about submitting to authority so that someday they will easily and naturally submit to the authority of God.

2 God Expects Obedience, and Right Away

Genesis 17:23; Genesis 22:3

- Think about, for example, the Ten Commandments. They are not the ten suggestions.
- We are commanded by God to command them. When we don't teach our children about obedience, then we are disobedient.
- He did what God told him to do at once. Even a difficult, dare I say it, painful command was carried out immediately.
- When God says to do something, you do that. And you do that right away.

3 Obedience Never Depends on Understanding Everything

Luke 5

- In the Bible, obedience never depends on our understanding everything that God has told us to do, or why?
- Our finite minds do not sit in judgment on the infinite mind of God when he commands us.
- We need to say, do what I tell you first, and we'll talk about it later. But obedience comes first.

4 Doing Half Amounts to 100% Disobedience

1 Samuel 15:22

- When you only do half of what God tells you to do, what's that amount? That amounts to 100% disobedience, doesn't it?
- Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to listen than the fat of rams.
- You do not get partial credit. You must do exactly what God tells you to do.
- Doing some of what the Lord has said, but not all of it, equals here in 1 Samuel 15, complete failure. And children need to be taught that.

5 God Commands Us for Our Good; Obedience Shows Love

John 14:15; John 14:21

- First and foremost, you understand that God commands us for our good.
- We buck against God's commands as if somehow we know better how to maintain the car than the one who designed and built it.
- If you love me, you will keep my commandments.
- Real obedience always begins with the heart. Because I love and trust God, I do what He says.

6 Don't Negotiate; Obedience Is an All-the-Time Thing

- If you look in Scripture, you'll notice that God does not negotiate obedience. Not ever.
- You don't want to command if you don't really care and you don't intend to enforce it and back it up.
- There's no time off from obeying God. We do what God tells us to do always, all the time.
- We want to be very clear in our commands. God never excuses disobedience.
- Even when you're tired, you obey. Even when you don't feel like it, you obey.

> THE CHALLENGE
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> **Ask yourself, am I teaching my child to obey me so that someday my child will obey God?**

MY NOTES