# The Heart of Authority

**Brent Moody** · Ephesians 6:1–4 · Series: **The Heart of Parenting**

## INTRODUCTION

- Authority is not inherently evil and wrong and bad and oppressive.
- The idea of parental authority to focus on attitudes, to focus on the heart and not just the end result, not just the behavior.

## 1 All Authority Is From God

**Romans 13:1–2; Ephesians 6:1–3; Exodus 20:12**

- All authority is from God, for there is no authority except from God.
- Therefore, whoever resist the authorities resist what God has appointed.
- If we resist that authority, you're not actually resisting your parents, you're resisting the authority of God.
- Both parent and child in Ephesians 6 are under the authority of God.
- When you honor your father and your mother and you obey them, it's actually giving honor and glory to God as the one who established all of this.

## 2 God Has Given Authority to Parents

**Ephesians 6:4; Genesis 18:19; Proverbs 29:15**

- Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. But bring them up in the discipline and the instruction of the Lord.
- We don't bring them up in our own ways, according to our own rules and our own way of thinking. We bring them up according to the ways of the Lord.
- I have chosen him, that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of the Lord by doing righteousness and justice.
- God has given authority to parents, not to the children.
- The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

## 3 As a Parent, I Work for God, Not Myself

**Hebrews 12**

- I'm bringing them up according to the disciplines that God has given us in Scripture, not just the things I've come up with.
- I'm not the boss. I'm not in control. I'm just a parent working for the Lord.
- The primary goal is that I'm teaching you to love the Lord if you're my child.
- As a parent, I am the first example to my child of what divine parenting is like of the heavenly father.

## 4 A Biblical Shepherding Model of Parenting

- We want their heart to be transformed by the power of the gospel, to believe in Jesus Christ, and to want to honor Him and obey Him in their life.
- It is leveraged through fear. And it promotes bitterness and anger and hate.
- When your goal is peace and happiness in the family, and so we're just going to kind of let everybody do what they want, it results in absolute chaos and frustration.
- If our goal is to transform the heart, the end result is going to be much better.
- What you've actually done is been rebellious toward God. And that needs to be the lesson.

## 5 Biblical Parenting Is Done With Love

**1 Samuel 3:13; Proverbs 3; Hebrews 12:11**

- Harsh parenting is not loving parenting. Might makes right is a bad foundation for authority.
- Permissive parenting is also not loving.
- Whoever spares the rod hates his son. But he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.
- For the moment, all discipline or training seems painful rather than pleasant. But later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.
- If I love my child, I will teach bad behavior as rebellion toward God, not just a personal offense against me.

THE CHALLENGE

Give yourself to Jesus Christ and begin this process of following him in all aspects of your life, including the way you parent.

MY NOTES