

The Sign of Authority

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I. Introduction:

A. Text: Deuteronomy 6:8-9.

B. Stages in which the Bible can be taught to children: parents must teach themselves, parents must assume the responsibility to teach themselves, teaching must follow a process of relating faith to life and life to faith (it must be conversational), and the words must be bound around the hands, forehead, gates and the feet.

C. The Jews took the last stage literally.

D. Jesus rebuked them because they often did it for notoriety.

II. Binding the Word of God was to be a sign of obedience.

A. Signs carry tremendous authority about them.

B. There is something parents can do to create authority.

C. The hands depict the actions governed by Scripture.

D. The forehead depicts the thoughts governed by Scripture.

E. The doorpost and the gates look to those outside and it regards relatives and neighbors.

1. Parents have tremendous authority when the children are obedient before others.

2. Parents can only command children if they have the sign of authority.

III. In case of failure, there should be immediate repentance.

A. No parent is perfect.

B. Where they are not perfect though, they are to admit it in order to resume authority.

IV. Areas of authority.

A. Authority is the ability to influence others, and it can be good or bad.

B. Discipline is a way of challenging life--it is designed to intensify or avoid disaster. Its end is ultimately the enjoyment of life.

C. Punishment is deliberate hurt inflicted to teach the difference between right and wrong. It has to do with justice.

1. Mercy can only be shown if there is an acknowledgment of guilt.

2. There is a place for punishment in the home.
3. Sometimes, punishment must come into play to get someone to accept discipline.
4. Discipline requires a person to overcome one's mood.
5. Good discipline seeks to arouse respect and not naked fear--one must test oneself by asking what reaction one is producing.
6. We can only seek to exercise discipline or punishment through authority that grows out of respect.

Application questions:

1. What are some creative ways that a person can get children into the Word of God that is creative and fun? Explain.

2. Why is humility important for parents teaching their children?

3. Explain the difference between discipline and punishment. What circumstances should each be used?
