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Authority Matters

1. Why authority matters.

Deut. 6:1-3 “These are all the commands, laws, and regulations that the Lord your God told me to teach you so you may obey them in the land you are about to enter and occupy, ²and so you and your children and grandchildren might fear the Lord your God as long as you live. If you obey all his laws and commands, you will enjoy a long life. ³Listen closely, Israel, to everything I say. Be careful to obey. Then all will go well with you, and you will have many children in the land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you.

2. 3 Types of authority...

Eph. 6:1-2 Children obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ²“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first of the Ten Commandments that ends with a promise.

- ♦ Parental
- ♦ Marital
- ♦ Spiritual

3. Teaching authority.

Deut. 6:6-7 And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands I am giving you today. ⁷Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are away on a journey, when you are lying down and when you are getting up again.

Deut. 6:20-21 “In the future your children will ask you, “What is the meaning of these stipulations, laws, and regulations that the Lord our God has given us?” ²¹Then you must tell them, “We were Pharaoh’s slaves in Egypt, but the Lord brought us out of Egypt with amazing power.

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“Too Much of A Good Thing”

1. We ignore our 1st vow.

Gen. 25:20-21 When Isaac was forty years old, he married Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Armean from Padda-aram and the sister of Laban. ²¹Isaac pleaded with the Lord to give Rebekah a child because she was childless. So the Lord answered Isaac’s prayer, and his wife became pregnant with twins.

Gen. 2:24-25 This explains why a man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one. ²⁵Now, although Adam and his wife were both naked, neither of them felt any shame.

2. We undercut the authority structure.

Gen. 27:5-8 But Rebekah overheard the conversation. So when Esau left to hunt for the wild game, ⁶she said to her son Jacob, “I overheard your father asking Esau ⁷to prepare him a delicious meal of wild game. He wants to bless Esau in the Lord’s presence before he dies. ⁸Now, my son, do exactly as I tell you. ⁹Go out to the flocks and bring me two fine young goats. I’ll prepare your father’s favorite dish from them. ¹⁰Take the food to your father; then he can eat it and bless you instead of Esau before he dies.”

3. We give “blessings” that become burdens.

Gen. 27:41-45 Esau hated Jacob because he had stolen his blessing, and he said to himself, “my father will soon be dead and gone. Then I will kill Jacob.” ⁴²But someone got wind of what Esau was planning and reported it to Rebekah. She sent for Jacob and told him, “Esau is threatening to kill you.” ⁴³This is what you should do. Flee to your Uncle Laban in Haran. ⁴⁴Stay there with him until your brother’s fury is spent. ⁴⁵When he forgets what you have done I will send for you. Why should I lose both of you in one day?”

Prov. 29:21 A servant who is pampered from childhood will later become a rebel.

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1. Parental repentance.

Mark 5:21-24 *When Jesus went back across to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him on the shore. ²²A leader of the local synagogue, whose name was Jairus, came and fell down before him, ²³pleading with him to heal his little daughter. “She is about to die,” he said in desperation. “Please come and place your hands on her; heal her so she can live.” ²⁴Jesus went with him, and the crowd thronged behind.*

2. Helping them hear.

Mark 5:40b-43 *Then he took the girl’s father and mother and his three disciples into the room where the girl was lying. ⁴¹Holding her hand, he said to her, “Get up, little girl!” ⁴²And the girl, who was twelve years old, immediately stood up and walked around! Her parents were absolutely overwhelmed. ⁴³Jesus commanded them not to tell anyone what had happened, and he told them to give her something to eat.*

- ◆ **Emergency actions**
- ◆ **Role of time**
- ◆ **Expressing “tough” love**

3. The hope factor - prayer.

Mark 5:35-36, 39-40a *While he was still speaking to her, messengers arrived from Jairus’s home with the message, “Your daughter is dead. There’s no use troubling the Teacher now.” ³⁶But Jesus ignored their comments and said to Jairus, “Don’t be afraid. Just trust me.” ³⁹He went inside and spoke to the people. “Why all this weeping and commotion?” he asked. “The child isn’t dead; she is only asleep.” ⁴⁰The crowd laughed at him, but he told them all to go outside.*

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1. Say it right.

Col. 3:21 *Fathers, don’t aggravate your children. If you do, they will become discouraged and quit trying.*

2. Set the boundaries.

Prov. 19:18 *Discipline your children while there is hope. If you don’t, you will ruin their lives.*

Prov. 13:1 *A wise child accepts a parent’s discipline; a young mocker refuses to listen.*

Prov. 10:17 *People who accept correction are on the pathway to life, but those who ignore it will lead others astray.*

Eph. 1:4-5 *Long ago, even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. ⁵His unchanging plan has always been to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. And this gave him great pleasure.*