

# **DISCIPLINE IN THE HOME/CLASSROOM: HEART PRINCIPLES THAT WORK!**

*"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."*

**Exodus 20:12**

*"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you."*

**Deuteronomy 5:16**

*"Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."*

**Colossians 3:20**

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.*

**Ephesians 6:1-3**

# DISCIPLINE: CLASSROOM PRINCIPLES THAT WORK

**INTRODUCTION** - These simple classroom principles will revolutionize your Children's Ministry class, creating order and an atmosphere of honoring one another. Learn how simple it is to create an environment that the children can learn in. These, honor based, God-given principles for life absolutely apply in the home.

We will be considering **3 PRINCIPLES** for life!  
Applying to the classroom, as well as the home.

- Children need training they don't come ready made.
- So, "It is not what you think that influences your children, it is what you communicate."
- We need to **instruct**, and to **train** the children.
- Children need **continual vision**. This is extremely important.
- Children **need direction**. Why? Because they have never done this thing we call life. You are one of the people God has placed in a child's life to **guide** them.
- We need to give the children the vision of "**what they should do.**" Often the child is only taught "**what not to do.**"
- **The child's "normal" is being created.** What does that mean? A child's normal is what they always see and do, what they have always known.

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT TRAINING CHILDREN

God has given us the key *elements* for what the children are to be trained up in, not just told.

*"Children, **OBEY** your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **HONOR** your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise: that it may be well with you, and you may live long on the earth." Ephesians 6:1-3*

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

- **If we as teachers or parents have not been taught or brought up in these ingredients, then this could be a challenge for us to teach/train the children?**  
This can be a problem. Are you willing to learn/change?
- **Do the children know that Ephesians 6:1-3 as the goal for their life?**  
Do they even know what these verses say or mean?
- **How will they know?** (by teaching them) The children can learn these simple rules in class, even only having a short time in class.

# PRINCIPLE # 1

## "OBEY"

### THE DEFINITION

**"Doing what someone says, right away, without being reminded."**

**Instructing children:** Tell the children you are using words, as you instruct them. Also, when you instruct them, be specific. Such as: **USE THEIR NAME**, then **TELL THEM WHAT YOU WANT THEM TO DO**, and then say, **"NOW."**

**IMPORTANT: Children need to learn the skill of obeying.**

Often, we don't realize what a child thinks about obeying. Some children believe if they don't agree with you, they don't have to obey you.

Why do you think obedience is so important when it comes to teaching the children? **(It's for the training the children to learn how to obey God.)** Also, obedience is important, **but** often **only deals with the outward** and **not the heart.** (We'll talk about this in a minute)

*And the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to all the congregation of the people of Israel and say to them, You shall be holy, for I the Lord your God am holy. Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the Lord your God." Leviticus 19:1-3 ESV*

**In the mind of God, reverence for one's parents is just as important as the worship of God and keeping his commandments.**

Parents should study how they can train their children to fulfill this commandment.

**"...THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU ..." EPHESIANS 6:3.**

**THAT IT MAY GO WELL WITH YOU! THE KEY ELEMENT FOR A CHILD'S LIFE TO GO WELL IS, TO OBEY AND HONOR THEIR PARENT'S.**

**"CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS IN THE LORD, FOR THIS IS RIGHT. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER..." EPHESIANS 6:1**

The child must honor the parent in obedience. "Obey your parents" is the New Testament version of "Honor thy father and thy mother." Deuteronomy 5:16

**"...AS THE LORD YOUR GOD HAS COMMANDED YOU..." This is a command!**

Therefore, the responsibility of training the child to obey is given to the parent and supporting this as a teacher - this is thinking biblically, and we want to think biblically. In obedience, the parent is to be honored.

Matthew 15:4 "Honor your father and mother; and He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death." **This is very serious to the Lord!**

This verse is so foundational to what the Bible has to say about God's expectations for children that it is quoted in the New Testament.

**HONOR** - is not just for children, but also for adults:

- 1 Tim. 5:17 Elders who rule well...worthy of double HONOR
- Matthew 15:4 For God commands, HONOR father and mother
- 1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, give HONOR to your wife
- 1 Tim. 5:3 HONOR widows who are really widows
- Hebrews 13:4 Marriage is HONORABLE...
- 1 Sam. 2:30 HONOR God
- Deut. 21:18-21 Stubborn...stone him...

So, **Principle #1 is to OBEY.**

**Obey.** "Doing what someone says, right away, without being reminded."

**So, in the classroom we need to: (and this is important)**

- # 1 - go over these rules EACH TIME IN CLASS. (Have rules poster up in class)
- # 2 - We need to help the students UNDERSTAND what the rules MEAN, and HOW THAT WILL WORK IN CLASS.
- # 3 - the children need to **learn and memorize the definitions** of each of the principle/ rules. This can be done over a period of weeks. Don't forget this!
- # 4 - And finally, **SHOW BY EXAMPLE** what it means to obey.

**The next principle is honor.**

**What is honor?** Some would say, it means to respect.

**Honor** and **respect** are different.

So, let's look at the difference between honor and respect before we talk about

- **Honor** and **respect** are both good, but different.
- **Respect** has as its root meaning, "**TO FEAR**", **respect** is **outward**.
- **Respect** focuses on a **person's position** or the **power** of an office.
- Families that overemphasize **respect** in family life, often end up with relationships that are **distant**, with a **lack of closeness**.
- **Honor** has as its root meaning, "**WORTH**" or "**VALUE**".
- When we *honor* God, we look at His **worth**, His **value**.
- **Respect** acknowledges a person's position.
- **Honor** attaches **worth** to that person as an individual.
- **Respect** teaches manners and proper behavior in the presence of others.
- **Honor** teaches an **appreciation** of that person.
- **Respect** can become a **technique to make a family look good** on the outside.
- **Honor** builds the **hidden bonds** that provide strength and lasting unity.
- **Respect deals with behavior.**
- **Honor is a response that comes from the heart.**

# PRINCIPLE # 2

## "HONOR"

### THE DEFINITION

**"Treating people as special, doing more than what's expected, and having a good attitude."**

*"Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, **in honor**, giving preference to one another." Romans 12:10*

**ESV - "Outdo, one another in showing honor." "Take delight."**

- Honor relates to many areas of life. What's honor look like? Show them.
- Teachers or parents should demonstrate what honor looks like - it helps raise a child's awareness of honor.
- **Teaching honor takes time to develop.** We need to look for teachable moments. What would be a teachable moment?
- **We want heart change, not just outward change.** We often use behavior modification, to try causing some kind of change.

### LET'S TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THE 3 ASPECTS OF HONOR:

#### (1) "TREATING PEOPLE AS SPECIAL..."

- We often can use dishonoring speech. It's a great way to show honor by our speech by speaking in an honoring way. This is treating people as special. (*When you see a child speaking in a dishonoring way, you can raise their awareness level by telling them so.*)
- When we honor it is like giving someone a gift. Each week in class or at home, give an **honor gift**. What are some ways to give "honor gifts"?
- A gift of **appreciation, or** a gift of **encouragement**.
- **Treating people special gets us thinking about someone else**, not just ourselves. **Self-centeredness can be a big problem** in life and in the classroom.

#### (2) "...DOING MORE THAN WHAT'S EXPECTED..."

Another way of saying this: "Doing more than what's **required**."

#### **Ways to train children to do more than what's expected:**

1. **Take an honor look.** Look around the classroom/bedroom to make sure the task is done and look for one more thing to do.
2. Look for **teachable-trainable moments**.
3. **Train the child to do the job completely.** Cleaning up the classroom or bedroom and putting things (toys) back. What does completely mean? Define it. **SO, IMPORTANT!**  
**Completely:** totally, utterly, in every way or as much as possible.
4. Jr. High Kids help set up chairs without being asked in the 4<sup>th</sup> - 6<sup>th</sup> grade room.

### (3) "...AND HAVING A GOOD ATTITUDE."

**Teach/Train** the children what it means to have a good attitude.

1. How do you want your child to respond when you give an instruction to them? What do you want them to say back to you?
2. How do you want your student/child to respond when you correct them?
3. How do you want your child to respond when they get a no answer? Maybe something like: OK, maybe next time."

What are the common **causes of bad attitude** in the classroom or at home?

- A total **focus on themselves**.
- **Self-centeredness**.
- Can you think of any other reasons for bad attitudes in class?

Before we go on to consider principle #3, I want to say, it's so

**IMPORTANT that you merge obedience together with honor. Because we want to deal with the heart issue. Both honor and obedience are important.**

## PRINCIPLE # 3

### "BE KIND"

#### THE DEFINITION

***"And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God in Christ forgave you." Ephesians 4:32***

- Kindness is about **caring genuinely** for others around you, **wanting the best for them**, and **recognizing** in them the same wants, needs, and even fears that you have too.
- **Kindness is about forgiving one another**, even as God in Christ forgave you.

**Kindness is deep caring for others.**

- **Gifts of kindness:** To **listen** with care (**pay attention**) in this fast-paced world, we are often too busy, rushing around.
- Carry out **random act of kindness**, with no expectation of being rewarded back. Teach/train them in how this looks/works.
- When someone drops something, help them by picking it up for them.

**Kindness is free, so share it with someone, every day.**

- Help, even if you aren't asked, see if anyone needs help and help them without prompting.

**Most issues in your classroom or in the home will be dealt with by using these 3 principles or guidelines.**

# WHAT IF THE CHILD CHOOSES NOT TO FOLLOW THE RULES?

Teach Children to take a "Break"

There are 3 distinctives that make a break work.

(This info comes from the National Center for Biblical Parenting / biblicalparenting.org)

## **Distinctive 1: is that the child is sent on a mission to change the heart.**

- We want children to understand that **correction is about heart change.**
- **This heart change is repentance.** Important for child to know.
- **Repentance:** means to change the mind, change your thinking.

## **Taking a break: What's the break look like as it is happening?**

- With **young children** - they will need to sit quietly & bored in a specific place near the parent; making sure they aren't playing.
- With **elementary age children** - Send them to a specific place, but not necessary where parent is, but still no playing of any kind.
- With **teens** - you most likely will not send them to a specific place, but there will be a stop in continuing with benefits of family life until this heart issue is dealt with.

## **Distinctive 2: is that the child helps determine the length of time spent in the break.**

(This is different than time-out)

- Allowing children to help determine the length of time spent in a break transfers the responsibility of change from the parent to the child.
- You don't know how long it will take for heart change.

## **Distinctive 3: the motivation to come out of the break is that the child is missing out on the benefits of family life.**

- There are many privileges associated with living in a family.
- The break helps children see that life's privileges are lost when you do the wrong things.

## **QUESTION# 1**

### **"What did you do wrong?"**

- The purpose of this question, "What did you do wrong?" is to allow the child **to take personal responsibility** for the offense.
- So, we ask our child the question "What did you do wrong?" **not in a harsh, accusing, or angry way, but in a gentle way**, as a matter of fact.
- We want children to **learn how to admit** they've done something wrong, and it takes courage and humility to admit wrongdoing.
- What this does is teach children the spiritual skill of confession.
- **The child that is not willing to answer this question needs to go back to the break.** It means they aren't ready; their heart is not changed. **They haven't repented.**

## **QUESTION# 2**

### **“Why was it wrong?”**

- **This question helps to address heart issues directly.**
- **It gives us opportunity to talk about the values behind our rules.**
- The child may realize or remember the rule. This is a time it can be **reinforced**. It gives opportunity to talk about **the values behind our rules.**

## **QUESTION# 3**

### **“What will you do differently next time?”**

- **This question helps children understand the need for a better response next time.**
- Again, **children may not know what they should have done differently** - you can teach them.
- **With practice, they will know what to do.**
- By communicating the right response to you verbally, your child will begin to see the difference and learn to change.
- **By asking the question ‘What are you going to do differently next time?’ repeatedly helps children move the truth down from their head to their hearts.**

## **Words of encouragement**

**This is a time when you can confirm that you believe in them.**

Part of a clear conscience is realizing that offenses or mistakes have been dealt with. **This method of discipline; doesn’t excuse the mistake, it admits them.**

**This is how God handles sin. He expects confession and in return offers forgiveness.**

Some of what we will be talking about comes from the National Center for Biblical Parenting.

*“Say Goodbye to Whining and Complaining and Bad Attitudes in You and Your Kids”*

[www.biblicalparenting.org](http://www.biblicalparenting.org)