



The "Oh Yeah!"

Letter

Respect for Parents

by Ami Loper

When we started the "Oh Yeah" newsletter three and a half years ago, it was because of the number of people who would come to us for counsel and after we'd reminded them of a simple detail from the GKGW class they'd forgotten, they'd hit themselves on the forehead and say those proverbial words, "Oh Yeah!" If there is one thing that parents seem to forget all too quickly after going through GK, it would undoubtedly be respect for parents.

Tim and I were recently teaching lesson six from GKGW for the fourteenth time when I was struck afresh by Anne Marie's words, "... The key (of respect for parents) is 'in the mind of the child' and we really need to try to think of it from the mind of the child and not from our adult perspective. When we let our kids talk back to us or debate or argue a point and we continue to say just, 'Don't you understand?' No! They don't; they really don't. That's our job: to help them understand the wisdom that we have... They're not going to just yield to it. It's not in their nature to yield. But, part of our role as a parent is to bring that moral conformity, start putting in that "moral reason why" and, in time, as they mature, then you will be able to dialog and reason."

I believe there are three primary reasons that parents disregard or quickly forget this vital element to our child's character development.

First, I believe that parents forget who they are. As Gary states in lesson six, when God commands in Exodus 20:12 that we are to honor our father and mother, He is closely associating honor of parents with honor of Himself! We are His representatives to our children. As Gary says, "We are the substitute presence of God! To dishonor parents is to dishonor God!" This is no small thing and must not be taken lightly by parents.

We talk with many parents and as parents ourselves, we are all keenly aware of our own shortcomings and limitations. While we never want to be blind to our humanness and failures, the problem is that this awareness can cause us to believe deep down that we are not worthy of respect. If we fail to recognize and accept our God-given role as His

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DON'T FORGET THOSE PRINCIPLES OF OBEDIENCE:

- * NO THREATENING, REPEATING, BRIBING OR NEGOTIATING IN CONFLICT
 - * FOUR CHARACTERISTICS OF BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE: IMMEDIATE, COMPLETE, WITHOUT CHALLENGE, WITHOUT COMPLAINT!
 - * VERBAL RESPONSE ("YES, MOM/DAD" OR "MAY I APPEAL?")
 - * OBJECTIVE VS. SUBJECTIVE OBEDIENCE.
- RE-READ CHAPTER 9 FOR REFRESHER

representatives, there is no reason to require respect. You would never expect a hurdler who had missed one hurdle to leave the competition! No, you would expect him to correct his error to the best of his ability and still behave as the competitor he is. If you are a parent, behave as a parent, not a peer.

The second reason I believe parents neglect to require respect is because they simply do not know what it looks like. I had a teacher ask me how she could make her students respect her. Throughout our conversation, one student continually interrupted, whined, threatened and was angry with her. When I pointed out that this boy was disrespecting her, she was astonished!

Too often disrespect is overlooked because it is not recognized. Gary says in the lesson, "Do not let your child demand of you, ... speak harshly to you, ... defy you openly and do nothing but smile at the child." The child who ignores, mocks, or disobeys you is disrespecting you. Ask for God's help to be able to see situations as He sees them. As Gary also points out, we will obviously use our parental authority in the areas of health and safety, why are we so slow to use them in the equally important area of moral issues?

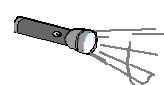
Thirdly, I believe that the enemy knows that if he can blind us to the need to establish authority when our children are small, we will have an uphill battle in the rest of our parenting. When our children are young, obedience is the goal. Without the child being able to control themselves, nothing can be taught. You must get external control, but don't stop there. Gradually, in the middle years, this must move to leading by your relational influence. During this time,

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A Parenting Treasure From The Word

"Then (Jesus) went down to Nazareth with (His parents) and was obedient to them." Luke 2:51 Even Jesus was called to obey is very imperfect parents!



FUN Idea of the Quarter

IN ARIZONA, blackouts aren't too common, but you can ALWAYS create your OWN! IN THE FALL, or WINTER WHEN THE SUN goes to bed so early, you can TURN OUT ALL THE LIGHTS, LIGHT SOME CANDLES AND PASS OUT THE FLASHLIGHTS! Eat SOMETHING either cold or grilled outside, play games and JUST CHAT, play FLASHLIGHT tag (a LOT OF FUN), MAKE SMORES IN THE FIREPLACE, and ASK YOUR KIDS HOW MANY VERSES they can REMEMBER that talk about LIGHT. YOU can talk about HOW they are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD and HOW God's WORD IS a LIGHT FOR our path. IMAGINE trying to ALWAYS traverse in the dark! THAT'S HOW IT IS WITHOUT HAVING THE WORD OF GOD TO direct you! SO IF there IS NO SIGN OF a real BLACKOUT headed your way, try an ARTIFICIAL ONE! YOU CAN HAVE a great time AND LEARN a LOT too!



Announcements

Somewhere between the end of March and the beginning of April, we will be teaching, "Reaching the Heart of Your Teen!" It is exciting to be teaching this class as we know so many who are wanting it. Please join us for this dynamic eight week course that is sure to improve the teen/parent relationships in your home. Call or email soon to reserve a spot!

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the training must reach the heart, but unless there is obedience as the foundation, our training ability will be severely hampered.

Get obedience first! It is vital. If your child refuses to give you the simple respect of listening to you, it should be your number one priority to get this in order. Many of us want to skip this step and arrive at being able to reason with our children. We cannot afford to get the cart before the horse in this matter.

Remember, "Parenting, in the mind of God, is a Kingdom issue." The goal of getting respect is not the end goal, it is merely an irreplaceable stepping stone in the process to helping our children develop into adults who honor and revere God. Don't disregard it by thinking you are not worthy - you are the God-appointed parent! Don't dismiss 


disrespect as childishness when it is rebellious foolishness. Don't overlook it in a rush to get to the "easier" part. God will reward your efforts as you strive to do your part in this task He has ordained for you! 

Quotes Worth Remembering

He is happiest, be he king or peasant, who finds peace in his home."

~Goethe

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Sign in shop: "Unattended children will be given an espresso and a free puppy." Kind of makes you want to hold on to your children, doesn't it? 

Marri~~age~~ge

Charging - Together!

All year long, our pastor has been coming back to Isaiah 54:2. It is a verse speaking of blessing, of enlarging of tents, and of change from old to new. This has been a year of charge for Ami and me; the biggest charge for us is Ashley being married. Some charges, like Ashley getting married, are good charges; other charges, like losing a job, are not nearly so pleasant to face. All charges bring times of stress, both individually and as a couple. It is critical that we call on the strong communication between husband and wife that we have been fostering with our spouses. Couchtimes. Datenights. This is when they pay big rewards. When stress and charge are facing you, gather your wife (or your husband) close to your side, communicate at the heart level, and find God drawing you tighter together. Don't take your marriage lightly, build that trusting communication. Then, when the winds blow, you will charge - together!

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