

Child Training II *Part 10: Rebellion*

In 1 Sam 15:22-23, the nature of rebellion is defined for Israel, for all Israelites forever — it is witchcraft or divination. Rebellion is a Satanic principle. There are no rebellious disciples, or children of disciples (Heb 12:5-12). No rebellion can be tolerated in the camp.

The conflict that occurs when parents attempt to control their children is the result of a child's rebellion, his defiance of or resistance to any authority or controlling power. All rebellion against constituted authority is the sin of witchcraft or divination, for stubborn resistance or obstinacy to any commandment is the work of Satan in a person's life in Israel (1 Jn 2:4).

Jn 14:21; Gen 18:19; Jn 8:39 —“*Whoever has my commandments*” means the ones who are His disciples (Jn 15:8 and 1 Jn 2:4) — all who make the claim to know Him (Jn 9:41). This teaching is to *Israel* (2 Sam 23:2-3).

Stubborn resistance to authority and the commandments of our Elohim is the same as being inspired by Satan to speak in order to deceive others into some kind of response or action, which makes one a servant of Satan (2 Cor 11:15). The *Jerusalem Bible* says *sorcery* in 1 Sam 15:23. The whole world has been *led astray* by the sorcery of Christianity and her preachers (Rev 18:23; Jn 9:41; 14:15), who make a claim to see and obey God. Rev 12:9; 20:3,8 — Satan's chief job is to lead astray, by deception, sorcery, accusations against true authority, even the authority of conscience. Satan is a liar, and so are all who listen to his voice (Pr 17:4; Rev 21:8; 22:15). They become like the one they listen to.

Parents must learn to recognize the ways children express their rebellion and how to handle rebellion when it occurs. Parents who tolerate and defend prolonged rebellion in their children commit a grave sin against the Body of Messiah on Earth, and the Kingdom will be torn from them, as well as their children (1 Sam 15:28; Eze 18).

Dt 21:18-21 speaks only of a rebellious child which the parents turn over to the elders, but if they themselves covered their child's sins, they too would be Satanically inspired and would be held guilty for not commanding their child, as all true sons of Abraham do (Gen 18:19). To *command* is to control with the intent of training and teaching them to reach the goal of their faith (Gen 15:18; 17:8; 18:19; Isa 49:8; Acts 26:7-8; Rom 11:15; Mt 19:28; Lk 19:17; Rev 2:26-27; 3:4,5,21; 5:10; 20:1-6).

Rebellion is the willful rejection of authority expressed either actively or passively. When a child is “in rebellion” he is in or under the influence of another spirit from yours, even as 2 Cor 11:4. The whole church was turned over to a rebellious spirit (Rev 18:2), a different spirit from their Master. Our children can be very subject to the prince of the power of the air (Eph 2:1-3) to become the children of disobedience, or the children of rebellion.

Your child is obviously in rebellion when he says “No” to your instructions or commands (to your word), or when he does not do what you tell him to do, when he chooses to ignore or “forget” your instructions. When a child continuously or consistently “forgets” he is actually choosing not to remember. Your word is not important enough to keep in his mind. So whose fault is it (especially when he is now 6 or 7, 8 or 9)?

Active Rebellion

Active rebellion is when your child will not listen to you or accept your instructions, so he “throws a fit,” responds with “No” or “I won't” or defiantly walks away while you are still talking. This kind of rebellion is very common in the world, but not in Israel. You see it every day in supermarkets and shopping malls. But none of these overt demonstrations of disrespect are common in “the Redeemed Nation.” If it appears, it is *never* tolerated by anyone who is *redeemed*. The children of the Redeemed are already controlled before they are allowed to “go to training” at six years of age. Otherwise, the rabbi will not tolerate them in training and will send them or take them to their parents. Parents cannot turn their children over to anyone else to be controlled, especially to the rabbi or training teacher. All of the Redeemed children, by the age of six, have been required to listen quietly to their instructor without any back talk or complaint.

When your child continues to play around or not focus his attention on you, or he chatters or ignores you when you are giving him instructions, he is expressing *rebellion*. Your child should have been trained and controlled to be able to pay strict attention to you before you turn him over to a training teacher to

disturb the rest of the controlled children. Your child is required to pay attention to you by looking you in the face, into your eyes, and verbally acknowledging his acceptance of your instruction with an attitude of respect and honor (Eph 6:1; Ex 20:12). If parents have, from the beginning of their child's life, *demand*ed this attention and respect, they would have been ready for training. But as it is in some places, the child gives the teacher a very hard time and disrupts the rest of the class by his rebellion. When a child will not accept your correction, he is being rebellious. He will not accept your reproof for some action or attitude by stubbornly avoiding the acceptance of his guilt. He might argue with you, say that it was not his fault, but someone else's fault. Some children will "clam up" instead of arguing. Their unwillingness to admit their wrongdoing and to agree with your reproof is a silent act of active rebellion.

Passive Rebellion

Children practice passive rebellion when they meet the external requirements for obedience, but internally are resentful. They are standing up on the outside while sitting down on the inside. This type of rebellion begins in the child's hidden mental attitude, but eventually will surface in his facial expressions of disgust, anger, or disrespect.

Passive rebellion can be expressed by a child who politely listens to your instructions, but who consistently fails to follow them without reminders, threats, or pressure. Girls are most prone to this type of rebellion. They nod their heads sweetly and say, "Yes, Imma." When they are caught not following the instruction, they declare that they were just about to do it, or that they forgot. The most subtle form of passive rebellion is to wait to obey until just before "getting into trouble." A child considers that it is a victory of his own will over the will of his parents when he does not obey until he has decided to do so.

Another form of passive rebellion besides waiting to obey before getting into trouble is to do what is required, but not in the way it should have been done. A child should be trained that obedience is not just following instruction, but includes following instruction in the right way. Many times children will assert their own will when carrying out instruction by doing it their own way. They only partially follow the instructions and then improvise by adding whatever or doing it however they want. Obedience is not the place for creativity. It is the place for *strict and complete compliance*. To train your child otherwise is to train him to be rebellious (1 Sam 15:22-23).

Some children would not dare to openly disobey or even talk back to their parents. Instead they seethe on the inside. This type of internal rebellion will reveal itself in facial expressions of disgust, anger, or disrespect. Such children will act melancholy or sulk and have the disposition of a lemon. They will withdraw, sulk, pout, and in general make everyone around them miserable for not giving them their own way. This type of rebellion must be drawn out into the open so that it can be overcome. If it is not, it will *explode* in the years when they should have become *b'nai mitzvah*. Or if you overlook this rebellion, *Bar Mitzvah* will become just a ritual to be observed and will not truly produce *sons of the commandment*, but instead *sons of disobedience*. Parents must be aware of the potential danger of a quiet, sullen child.

Basically, the principle is this: a child is in rebellion any time he knowingly and willingly places his will above the stated will of his parents. This is the meaning of *contempt* in Dt 27:16. When a child deliberately refuses to accept his parents' "right to rule" he is being rebellious. Rebellion is the overthrow of authority.

The conflict of rebellion will happen in the process of child training. Parents must direct and control their children in order to train them. They are not to have their own way. Parents not only have this right, but they are responsible to use it, as we have said when we discussed before about parental authority and responsibility. Children possess a will of their own and the Tempter is always there to tempt them to lead them astray, as well as to lead their parents astray from the given task of Gen 18:19.

Parents are not responsible for the conflict — the child is. Children are to be obedient to their parents *in all things* (Eph 6:1). When parents are exercising their God-given right of rulership, and conflict results, it is the child who has chosen to revolt. He has chosen to challenge the parents' right to rule him and has become his own authority. But when there is no king, a child will naturally do whatever is right in his own eyes (Jdg 17:6; 21:25).

Like the Most High

When parents are king (that is, in authority), and children are doing what is right in their own eyes, saying, “My will be done,” that is rebellion, and the child is no longer under authority, but has placed himself on an equal level with his parents — demonstrating how rebellion is a Satanic principle (Isa 14:14).

“Most High” is ultimate authority, which means he has absolute right to rule. When parents are as Eph 5:22 - 6:3, then they are the child’s king, the ultimate authority, the *Most High* to them, and any disobedience is rebellion. Paul did not write in chapters. Apostate monks made the New Testament into chapters. But Eph 5:22 to 6:3 is a *continuing theme*— children obey such parents as these. Parents who are as the Most High, the ultimate authority in Heaven and on Earth (*for this is right*, Eph 6:1, or this is the parents’ right, that is, to rule) have happy children, for they have a king in the land — in their homeland. They have no excuse to do what is right in their own eyes. To do so is to overthrow authority. Satan said, in effect, “You have no right to rule me; I will become equal to you; I will place myself on your level; no longer do I have to take your commands; no longer do I have to follow and obey you.”

Rebellion is conflict between two opposing wills. It is the expression of the will of the one under authority against the will of the one in authority. We are either in one place or the other (1 Jn 5:19-20). We are in conflict with the will of God and His authority over our lives when we fail to go to the Throne of Grace, when we fail to obey His commandments, when we are not loving Him (Jn 14:15; 1 Cor 16:22). We do not obey Him if we do not love Him. We are in rebellion. There is no neutral ground. There is no neutral ground between love and hate. Every child has a will of his own. He chooses when to obey and whom to obey. At whatever point a child chooses to rebel, his parents *must* command sufficient power to put down the revolt — *immediately*. The child must accept the authority and control of his parents. Child rebellion is the willful attempt by a child to overthrow parental authority. If rebellion is not put down, revolution will occur.

Revolution is the complete overthrow of authority (Rom 1:30; 2 Tim 3:2). Satan is mustering up power over the Everlasting Covenant of conscience (Isa 24:5-6) for the last-days attempt to overthrow God’s Kingdom, to deceive the very elect if it were possible (Mt 24:24).

When a child places himself on an equal position with the parent and he is allowed to remain there, revolution has come in and a takeover is imminent. Children now take over rulership of their parents. They control the family, demanding to be the center of attention, and they may even dictate what parents can or cannot do in more than subtle ways or means. When a child is allowed to throw temper tantrums to get his way as a small child, he grows into his exalted position later on as an older child, then in his teenage years he ascends to pre-eminent rule. He gets his car, dates at his own choice and decision, never asks the advice of his parents — since they abdicated their rulership while he was yet a child.

This revolution destroys the way God intended man to go in after the fall (Gen 3:16-19; Isa 24:5-6). The result is chaos and cursing for both children and parents (Heb 12:7-8). In the world today, the child has dethroned parents’ authority. The parents abdicate their throne and surrender their rights over to the child’s rights (the “Children’s Rights” movement).

After this revolution, parents can only negotiate with their child or try to manipulate him to get him to do what they may think is best. Households where this has taken place are in chaos. The children in that family control their own bedtime, diet, dress, entertainment, and most everything else. The parents have been reduced to counselors whose advice can be simply refused, since they have abdicated their authority in the takeover — revolution by the child. They may try to appeal to the underdeveloped reasoning abilities of the child in an attempt to direct him. Such parents may convince their child to do the right thing or to do what, in their opinion, would be best for him, but of course the child will do only what pleases him. Then when this attempt fails, the parent will try to use bribes, threats, or deceit. They offer them something they want in return for obedience, or they threaten to take something away that they want unless they cooperate.

Bribery is the feeding of the flesh — their own desires (Jms 1:14) — in an attempt to control another person, like offering candy or ice cream to a child if he will do what the parents want. This destroys the child, and the parents are good for nothing, murderers, sending their children to hell, if possible. Bribery has never

accomplished or developed internal controls in a child.

Only exercise in controlling his will develops self-discipline. This can only be done by parents who are as Eph 5:22-33. These are the parents Eph 6:1 speaks of obeying or commanding obedience to. Children who have been raised by parents who do not conform to Eph 5:22-33 cannot demand the respect of their child. It is no wonder that children who have been raised by these kinds of parents do not have enough respect for their parents to obey them, since they were denied external control when it was needed and were not trained to develop the self-control which they now suffer the lack of. No one can respect or honor any person in leadership who abdicates his right to rule and as a result resorts instead to manipulation to get his way.

Leadership or kingship requires a direct, open approach — one that clearly defines the rules to be followed and decisively eliminates all rebellion. So parental authorities must not tolerate child rebellion. God has provided parents in the world, and in the New Israel especially as a light and salt, with the right and the might to maintain their position of authority. God's word defines the only solution to the problem of rebellion in the world and in Israel.

So parents cannot solve the problem of rebellion by reason, bribes, redirecting his attention, playing on his emotions or his fleshly desires, or by intimidation, deception, or manipulating him in any way. Parents can neither avoid the problem of a child's rebellion nor attempt to negotiate with him. Rebellion must be conquered or cast out — in the child or out of the child. All rebellion must go — in the parent or out of the parent. It must go. To conquer rebellion in the child parents must be willing to apply enough force to cause the rebellious child to choose to do the parents' will instead of continuing to choose to rebel. This is called *chastisement* in the Bible, which makes the difference between success and failure in child training. This is the topic of the next section.