

The Reality of Rebellion

I. The Nature of Rebellion

- **What is rebellion?**
 - According to Merriam-Webster, to rebel is to “oppose a government or ruler.” Their second definition is simply “disobedient, rebellious.”
 - The biblical use of the appropriate Hebrew and Greek words communicate the same meaning.
- **What does God think of rebellion?**
 - I Samuel 15:23; Romans 1:29-32; II Timothy 3:2-5
 - In God’s eyes, rebellion is the same as witchcraft and insubordination (the refusal to put oneself under another’s authority) is as sinful as worshipping a false god.
- **From where does rebellion originate?**
 - Genesis 5:5-6; Psalm 2; Romans 1:18-23; Isaiah 30:9; Ezekiel
 - Every single one of us was born with a sinful fleshly nature.
 - Everything about that sin nature is insubordinate. Everything about that sin nature is rebellious. We could put it this way, rebellion is the trajectory of man. Self-autonomy cannot abide authority.
 - Mankind has seen and studied God’s awesomeness, and they petulantly refuse to acknowledge what they’ve clearly seen and rush to replace the Creator with the creation. Every infant born — other than the Messiah — is born with a penchant to resist and refuse and rebel against authority. This should not surprise us.
 - The majority of the Old Testament exists to teach us two things:
 - Mankind is inherently and inextricably rebellious, but . . .
 - God is patient and loving and gracious.
- **What are the consequences of rebellion?**
 - Matthew 7:17-23; Revelation 20:11-15
 - Despite what we may do, God is going to judge us by our motivation. Did we do what we did for self or did we do it as an act of worship to God?
 - If anyone perseveres in their rebellion against God, His holiness and justice will require Him to condemn them for all eternity. You cannot sin against an infinite God without expecting to pay and infinite price.
- **What is the cure for rebellion?**
 - John 14:15; I John 1:5-7; Ephesians 6:1-3; Romans 13:1-7
 - The only cure for rebellion is learning what God says about rebellion and submitting to His Truth.
 - Obedience must always be our top priority — doing the right thing in the right way for the right reason in the right power.

I. Parenting Application

- **Your children are born rebels.**
 - They do not want to submit. They will feign submission in order to not receive consequences, but no matter how sweet and cute they look while doing it, their “obedience” is motivated by their own self-interest which means it’s only partial obedience — which means it’s disobedience before God.
 - The very first time your children will ever submit to anyone is the first time they submit to God in salvation — through the power of the Holy Spirit’s gift of faith.
 - Until then, they are insubordinate to their core and rebellious even in their attempts to do what they’re told.
- **Everyone in your home has a natural predisposition to rebellion, therefore teaching everyone in your home the important truths concerning submission and obedience must always be our top priority.**
 - John 14:15; I John 1:5-7; Ephesians 6:1-3; Romans 13:1-7
 - No one at Truth.Love.Parent. is going to suggest that mere legalistic, behavioral externalism is ever going to make a family work. True submission to God and obedience to Him is first and foremost a heart posture. We believe God’s promises to be true, and we follow Him in that trust. There is nothing more seminal to the Christian life than that. That means that valuable parenting is going to consistently point us back to our need for Christ, our love for Christ, and our submission to Christ.
 - The only correct response to our constant temptation to rebellion is submission to God.
 - And it must be noted that true and complete submission to God is going to involve submission to the other authority figures God has ordained for us.
 - Parents
 - Government
- **When parents disobey their authorities they’re teaching their children to do the same.**
 - How many of your behaviors have taught your kids that they don’t have to do what they’re told if they don’t feel like it.
 - Dad doesn’t buckle his seat belt because he doesn’t want to. Why should I clean my room if I don’t want to?
- **Rebellion multiplies from generation to generation, therefore Christ-honoring parents need to help their children manage their influences.**
 - This is not to say that former generations were less rebellious — each individual rebels every time they sin for the same terrible reasons that anyone else rebels — but as rebels discover more rebels, they team up against the authority they abhor.
 - Entertainment, the media, the internet, books, music, games, friends, school — all of those influences and more are generally going to multiply rebellion. As everyone feels that they’ve found others who “understand them” they will feel a draw to consume even more and more of the lie that we are self-autonomous, beautiful snowflakes who shouldn’t have to endure anything we find distasteful or uncomfortable.
 - We’re not calling us to shelter our kids, we’re calling us to equip our kids to attack lies with truth. We’re calling us to surround our kids with Truth so they will learn to spot and reject the counterfeits. And there are so many extremely loud and persuasive counterfeits out there.