

04/05/2009 – Tom Hamilton

“Child Training: Biblical Control”

- Control is essential to child training
 - Obedience requires parents to exercise authority (Eph 6:1)
 - Submission to external controls develops internal controls (Eph 4:25ff)
 - Testing without control reinforces self-indulgence
 - Training relates to a child’s heart (i.e. their trust in the parents)
- Symptoms of a child-controlled home
 - “My kids just won’t eat that”
 - “We can’t go there, the kids will be bored”
 - “We can’t stay long, the kids can’t sit still that long”
 - “The kids refuse to sit in their car seats”
 - “The kids won’t put up with...”
 - “We can’t get the kids to...”
- Why do parents not exercise their authority?
 - Worldly philosophy
 - Democratic parenting
 - Godless and unbiblical
 - Falsely assumes the child is capable of decision-making
 - Misguided goals
 - Happiness vs. respect
 - Godless and unbiblical
 - Results in the opposite effect
 - Happiness is byproduct of living right, doing right, etc.
 - Lack of confidence
 - Unsure of what to do
 - Training is circumstantial or reactive, only negative

- Godless and unbiblical – the Bible says what to do
- It never seems like the right time to train the child
- Emotional insecurity
 - Craving the child’s approval
 - Godless and unbiblical
 - Results in opposite effect – the child despises intimidated parents
 - Signs of intimidated parents
 - “Please don’t hate me”
 - Asks for child’s agreement on instructions
 - Uses logical arguments over parental authority
 - Fears rejection of child after discipline
 - Allows child to express criticism
 - Bribes child
- The essential need: children’s obedience
 - The child must obey. Period.
 - Authority must be taken back – not back and forth – make it permanently
 - Do not allow the child to argue
 - Do not misuse authority (i.e. bully them)
 - Do not try to be a “friend” in a way that lacks authority
 - Aim for child’s respect, not affection
 - The child performs instruction the first time
 - The child responds to calm instruction, not only when screaming
 - The child acts immediately upon instruction