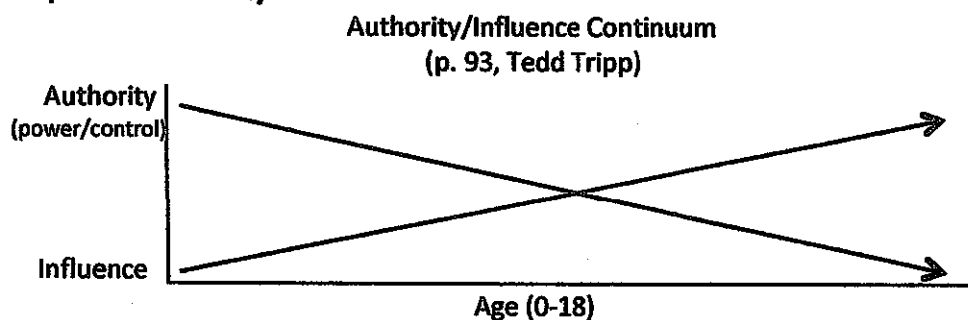


Parenting with Ambassadorial Authority

Our goal: "You want to be used of God to help your children to begin to believe that submission to authority is where life and freedom are to be found. When this happens, children begin to admit their need, confess their wrongs, and reach out for the help of the Savior. Nothing in your child's life is more important than this." (p.117)

"... you have been put into your position as a parent to display before your children how beautiful, wise, patient, guiding, protective, rescuing, and forgiving God's authority is." (p.116)

Long-term view of parental authority:



What are some ways that we rightly cultivate our children's autonomy while exercising authority in their lives?

When is this difficult?

Potential pitfalls:

Possible continuum of authority in parenting:

Permissive ←————→ Strict

Is your exercise of parental authority consistent because it's driven by God's call or is it inconsistent because it's shaped by the emotion of the moment?(p.120)

Bible Study:

What is required of us as parents?

What is required of our children?

What is the purpose of these requirements?

Leviticus 19:3: Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and you shall keep my Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.

Deuteronomy 5:16: Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may go well with you in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9

"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Deuteronomy 27:16: "Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'"

Proverbs 1:7-9: Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching, for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Proverbs 12:1: Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but he who hates reproof is stupid.

Proverbs 13:1: A wise son hears his father's instruction, but a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Ephesians 6:1-4: Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Establishing Biblical Authority:

- ❖ **Be intentional about establishing authority early on and use the little moments given when your children are still very young. (p. 118)**

"Be thankful for these little moments, don't look at them as the bad moments of parenting, as hassles and interruptions; these are the good moments of parenting. These are moments of grace." (p.118)

- ❖ **Couple discipline with spiritual instruction (p.119)**
- ❖ **Be consistent (p.120)**
- ❖ **Show humility – we are more like our children than unlike them (p.121)**
- ❖ **Remember that we have limited ability to change our children.**

"God inhabits your trials of discipline with his presence and grace to do in those moments in the hearts of your children what you would never be able to do. Thank God for his grace and seek to be a tool in his powerful hand." (p.119)

Spiritual Instruction coupled with discipline:

- ❖ Identification of sin

- ❖ Confrontation of sin: *Not right with me, not right with God*

- ❖ Prayer of confession, repentance, thanksgiving

"The more your children understand why they do what they do, the easier it will be for them to admit their wrongs and seek your forgiveness and God's." (p.118)

- ❖ Restoration: *Right with me and because of Jesus, right with God.*

5 heart-revealing questions:

1. What was going on? (revealing context)
2. What were you thinking and feeling as it was happening? (revealing thoughts)
3. What did you do in response? (revealing behavior)
4. Why did you do it? What were you seeking to accomplish? (revealing motives/desires)
5. What was the result? (revealing consequences of heart: thoughts/motives/desires)

Conclusion:

"It is important to again and again embed the story of your child's rebellion into the larger story of redemption." (p.122)

"It really is true that there is no more central issue in the lives of our children. Their struggle with authority really does reveal the depth of the hold of sin on their hearts and their need for the grace of the Savior. And in that way we really are like our children. When we admit, that, we are able to exercise authority with humility and grace, giving our children a little picture of how gloriously beautiful and good God's authority actually is." (Tripp, p.122)

Personal Reflection Questions from Tripp:

What kind of picture are your children getting of God's authority by the way you exercise yours? (p.117)

How often do you combine moments of discipline with patient, insight-giving instruction? (p.118)

Did you fight or are you fighting your authority battles early? If not, what changes in the way you look at little moments of discipline need to take place in you and the way you respond to your children? (p.120)

Do you humbly own the rebellion of your own heart as you deal with the rebellion of your children in a way that causes you to exercise authority with patience and grace? (p.121)

In moments of discipline, do you often point your children to the hope and help that is to be found in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus? (p.120)

Resources used to prepare this study:

1. *Parenting* by Paul Tripp
2. *Shepherding a Child's Heart* by Tedd Tripp