

Understanding the deep problem with your child

The world's view of your child's problem.

1. Children are naturally good and innocent.
2. Children misbehaves not because of his nature but because of others affect on them
3. Children misbehave because of the negative affect of parental authority.

The biblical view of your child's problem. Prov. 22:15

1. **Children are naturally sinful and selfish sinful from birth. "*Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child.*"** "Foolishness mean sinfulness not childishness. They come into the world as little sovereign rulers. Ps 51:7
2. Their foolish heart blinds them to God's worthiness and rule over them. Rom. 1:20-25
3. Their foolishness leads to the social and relational disharmony and increasing me first - others second lifestyle. Romans 1:20-32
4. They resist and fight against intrusions into their authority when they don't get their way. James 4:1-2
5. The problem is their heart not simply their behavior. It negatively affects their reasoning, thinking and decisions. Eph. 4:17-29
6. A child by nature is shockingly, sometime incomprehensibly, deceptive and selfish. Jer. 17:9

The evidence of the problem

1. It is universal - in every child
2. It is inevitable. It doesn't require training but comes naturally.
3. A child is angry at being asked to do something contrary to what them want
4. A child rebels against authority by disobedience, disrespect and sabotage towards parents.
5. Lack of character and compassion to help parent. Sinful rudeness is natural to them. Rom. 1

The Remedy of your child's problem

1. **Trust.** God's diagnosis and wisdom in raising children is perfect. The nature of the child's heart is the reason for God's strategy Pr. 22:15

2. **Teach.** They must learn they were born into a world of authority and they are not it. Eph. 6:3-4; Dt. 6:4-6

3. **Exercise parental authority.** Prov. 22:15; 29:15; Eph. 6:1-4
 - a. Recognize misconception of parental authority.

 - b. Recognize hindrances to you exercising parental authority.

 - c. Don't exercise your authority in an abusive way.

 - d. Don't exercise your authority based on your mood.

 - e. Reflect God's authority: it is patient, gracious, consistent, good, forgiving, It is based on His instruction and encouragement, not just discipline and judgment.

 - f. Explain and instruct on what God expects from them re. submission. Use their times of disobedience as teaching times.

 - g. Explain what obedience looks like. Don't allow a disrespectful attitude while they are 'obeying'. Explain what God says about the heart.

 - h. Exercising authority is gospel work. It is explaining God's law and his grace to help the child through a relationship with Jesus.