

Under Loving Command



FOUR BASIC PARENTING TYPES

A. The ***Dominant Parent*** –
Authoritarian–

–“*Do as I say, because I say so.*”

B. The ***Neglectful Parent***–

–“Too busy with my own life to care.”



FOUR BASIC PARENTING TYPES

C. The *Permissive Parent*—

--“No rules—do mostly what you want.”

D. The *Loving and Firm Parent* —

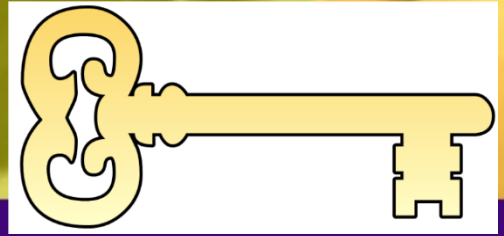
--*Authoritative*—

- *Firm guidelines* that must be followed, *consequences* when they are not.
- However, *love and acceptance* is the environment in which it all takes place.
- A parent must be both *tough and tender* at the same time!



Pray for wisdom . . . Jas 1:5

- Principles never change, just *applications to them.*
- Applications . . .
 - Free to differ with them.

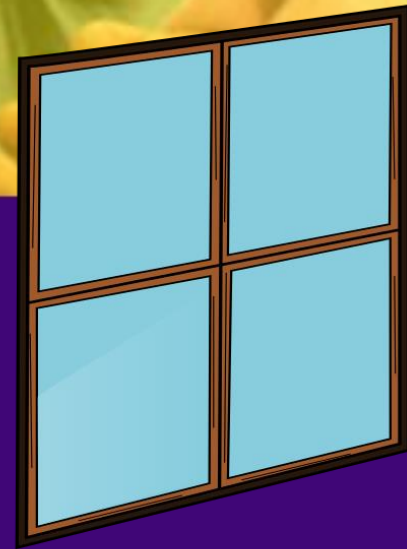


Grab the reins of authority early.

- “Discipline your son while there is hope, and do not desire his death” (Prov 19:18).
- “He that spares his rod hates his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes” (Prov 13:24).
 - Betimes = “diligently, early, immediately.”
 - Ecc 8:11 “Judgement must be executed speedily.”



***There is a brief window
of opportunity . . .***



- Similar to “Phonemic contraction.”
- The *larynx* is malleable and then hardens.



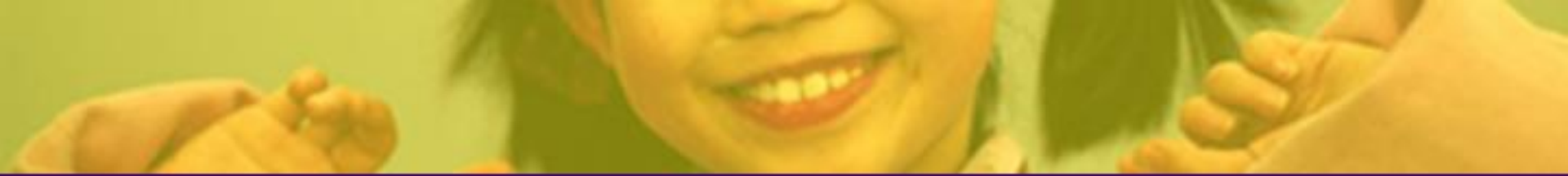
Children's attitude toward authority is established early

- Late infancy and toddlerhood is when “respect and awe” can best be instilled!
- If the child's early reach for power is successful ...**watch out!! (Prov 22:15).**

Your top Priority: *Break the will, but not the spirit!*

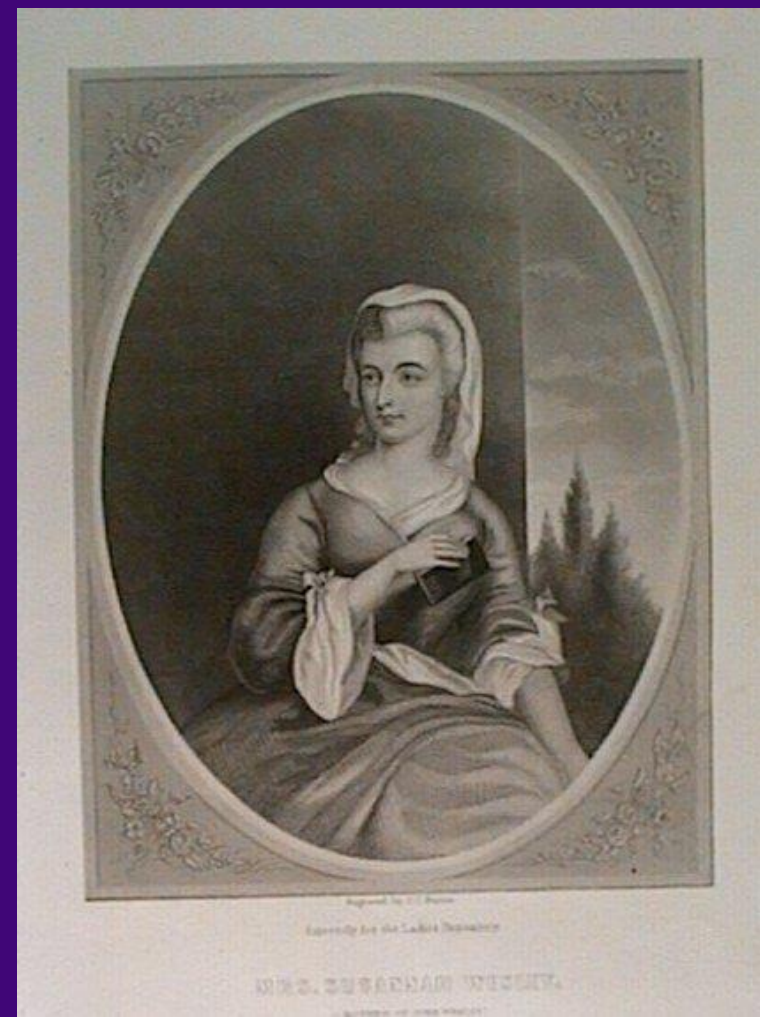
- As **self-will** is the root of all sin...
- Whatever checks and mortifies it, promotes the child's future happiness and piety.
- **Christianity is nothing less than doing the will of God, and not our own**; and the one grand impediment to our temporal and eternal happiness is our **own self will**.
- **No indulgence of it can be trivial, no denial unprofitable.**





“The first thing to be done is to conquer the will. .

To inform the understanding is a work of time, and must with children proceed by slow degrees as they are able to bear it; but the subjecting of the will is a thing which must be done at once, and the sooner the better!

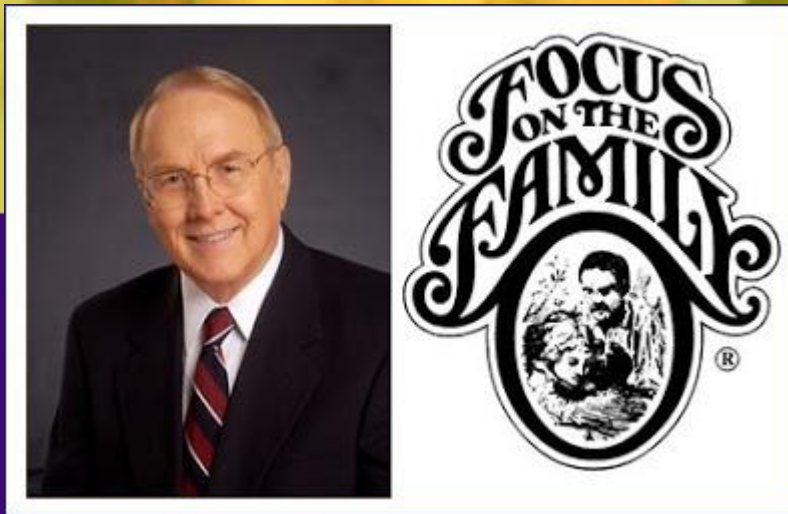


Susannah Wesley



Susannah Wesley

- “And, if the will of a child is totally subdued, and if it be brought to *revere and stand in awe of the parents*, then a great many childish follies and inadvertencies may be passed by. Some should be overlooked and taken no notice of, and others mildly reproved.
- But no willful transgressions ought ever to be forgiven children, without chastisement, more or less as the nature and circumstances of the offences shall require.”

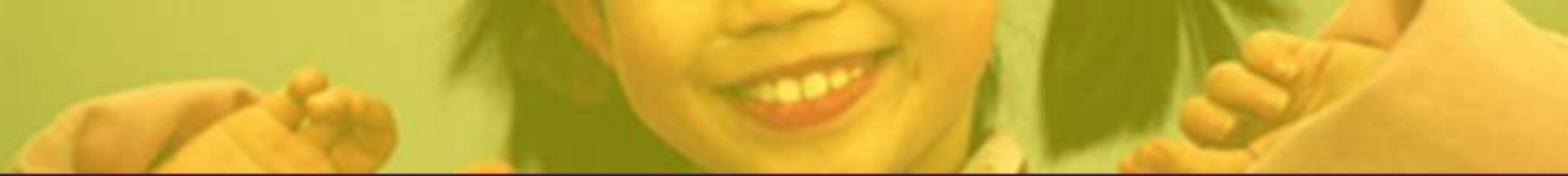


- “If the strong-willed child is allowed by indulgence to develop ‘**habits**’ of **defiance and disrespect** during his early childhood, those characteristics will haunt him for the next twenty years.”
- Dr. James Dobson



Win every battle of the will!

- “A child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother” (Prov 29:15).
- Catch your children doing right and praise them more often than you punish them!



Win every battle of the will!

- Not harsh or gruff, but *confident and steady*.
- *You are in charge*. *Believe it* and the child will respond and will feel secure.
- Your job is to *break the will, but not the spirit!*
- You do it well and the children will grow up to *love and respect* and be your friend in adulthood!



- “The issue of respect can be a useful tool in knowing when to punish and how excited one should get about a given behavior. First, the parent should decide whether an undesirable behavior **represents a direct challenge of his authority** - to his position as the parent.
- Punishment should **depend on that evaluation.**”
Dr. James Dobson



Spanking is best reserved for acts of defiance!

- “I will not!” “You shut up!” “I hate you!”
- Who will win? Who has the most courage? Who is in charge?
- Starts at about 15 months and outbursts should be met with **loving firmness**.
- **Win every “little battle” of the will early and avoid huge “big battles” later!**



The Ultimate Paradox!

- “It is the ultimate paradox of childhood that a youngster **wants to be controlled**, but he **insists that his parents earn the right to control him.**”
- This is not a philosophy born of harshness, it is conceived in love.”



**Teach the younger women
how to “love their children.”
(Titus 2).**

- You must also seek **numerous and continual ways of telling your children how much you adore them!**
- That formula of **love and discipline** has been tested and validated over many centuries of time. **God’s way!!**



Conclusion:

- Way to have your children “under loving command” is to grab the reins of authority early!
- **Winning Formula:**
 - Tender love and affection + strong discipline . . .
 - Earn your child’s love and respect for a lifetime!

The key to salvation!

- **Accountable souls:** “Not my will, but thine be done.”
- **Repentance** = broken will, humble spirit says I have been wrong, forgive me!!

