



Biblical Parenting 3: Parenting for Middle Childhood

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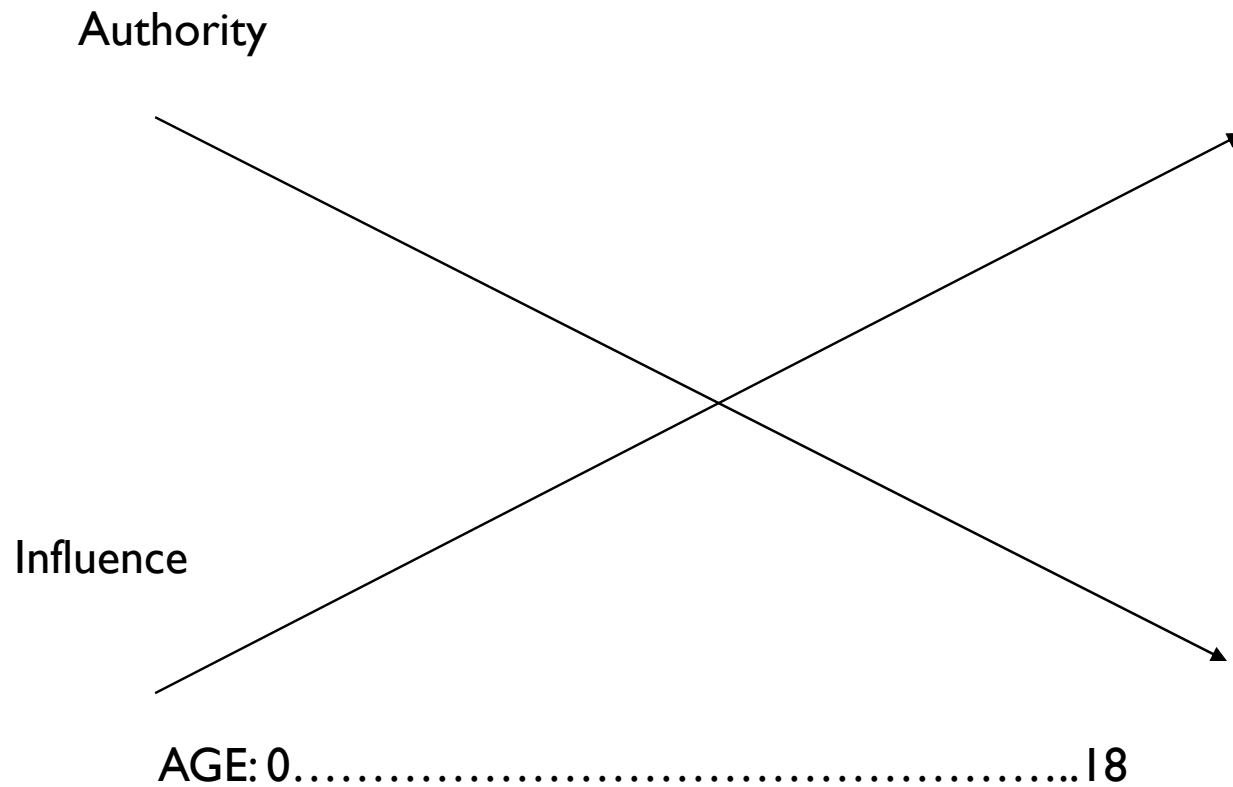


Middle Childhood

- Approx. Ages 6-12
- Primary Characteristic: Growth
 - Personality, abilities, relationships, ideas, tastes
- Primary Parenting Goal: Character Development
 - Honesty, kindness, diligence, dependability, purity, humility, etc.
 - No longer under your immediate care all the time
 - Need to avoid behaviorism
- Diagnostic Approach
 - Child-God Relationship: What is the nature of relationship? Motivated to know and serve God? Is God a source of strength and comfort? Independent relationship to God?
 - Child-Self Relationship: Self-aware? Aware of strengths/weaknesses? Fearful? Boastful?
 - Child-Others Relationship: Easily controlled? Peer pressure? Thoughtful? Abusive? Bossy? Helpful?
- Primary Method: Communication
 - Seek to understand heart issues
 - Appeal to the conscience
 - Set an inspiring example

* Adapted from Tripp, *Shepherding*, chapters 16-17

Authority vs. Influence





Parenting Middle Childhood

How to Communicate with your Children

- Dialogue, not Monologue
 - “A fool finds no pleasure in understanding, but delights in airing his own opinions.” *Proverbs 18:2*
 - “He who answers before listening— that is his folly and his shame.” *Proverbs 18:13*
 - “Your first objective is not to tell your children how you feel about what they have done. You must try to understand what is going on inside them.” Tripp, 73
- Basic Modes of Communication: Rules, Correction, Discipline (80-90% for most).
- More Powerful Modes of Communication: “Warn those who are idle, encourage the timid, help the weak, be patient with everyone” (1 Thes. 5:14).
 - Encouragement (inspire with hope) - Correction (bring into conformity)
 - Rebuke (censure behavior) - Entreaty (solicit and urge)
 - Instruction (provide lesson or precept) - Warning (put on guard to danger)
 - Teaching (impart knowledge) - Prayer (communicate your faith in God)



Parenting Middle Childhood

Strengthening the Bonds of Parent-Child Love

- **Read** – Read God’s Word to and with your children.
- **Pray** – Pray for and about your children. Let them hear you praying for them. Enter them into the family’s intercessory prayer-life.
- **Work** – As much as possible, bring the children into the work of the home.
- **Play** – Participate in enjoyable activities with your children. Enter into their play. Create fun interests that you can share as a family.
- “Full-orbed, rich, multi-faceted communication is the cement that holds a parent and child together... The more you talk with your children, helping them to understand themselves, their temptations, fears and doubts, the more you prepare them to understand life in the world.”
- Communication and interaction provide *influence* to go along with *authority*.

“My son, give me your heart and let your eyes keep to my ways.” Proverbs
23:26



Family Worship

- Importance of: When will we ever have time for rich communication if not in structured times around God's Word?
- Centers family on worship of God.
- Regularity is more important than frequency. If only once a week, you are accomplishing much.
- Features of Family Worship:
 - Scripture / Devotional Reading
 - Scripture Teaching/Discussion
 - Prayer for one another and for others in need
 - Singing Hymns or Psalms (optional, but fun!)