



Brown CG Discussion Guide

God's Authority and Parenting - Ephesians 6:1-4 – May 10, 2020

I. Starter Questions:

Think of those who have some form of authority over us in our lives? How do we generally respond to authority directing us in our lives? Do these “typical” behaviors affect our response to Christ’s authority and living under His Kingship? Do we find it easy to accept God’s Lordship in some areas of our lives but very difficult to impossible in other areas?

John Frame, in speaking of God’s authority in *The Doctrine of the Christian Life* speaks plainly from scripture—the authority from which he points us to. “God’s authority is His right to tell His creatures what they must do. Control is about might; authority is about right...authority means that God has the right to be obeyed, and that therefore we have the obligation to obey Him.” (Luke 6:46; cf. Matt. 7:21-22; John 14:15)

II. Scriptures:

Ephesians 6:1-4

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1 Corinthians 10:23-31

²³ I have the right to do anything,” you say—but not everything is beneficial. “I have the right to do anything”—but not everything is constructive. ²⁴ No one should seek their own good, but the good of others. ²⁵ Eat anything sold in the meat market without raising questions of conscience, ²⁶ for, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything in it.” ²⁷ If an unbeliever invites you to a meal and you want to go, eat whatever is put before you without raising questions of conscience. ²⁸ But if someone says to you, “This has been offered in sacrifice,” then do not eat it, both for the sake of the one who told you and for the sake of conscience. ²⁹ I am referring to the other person’s conscience, not yours. For why is my freedom being judged by another’s conscience? ³⁰ If I take part in the meal with thankfulness, why am I denounced because of something I thank God for? ³¹ So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God.

Matthew 28:16-20

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. ¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age

John 13:1-5

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end.

² The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. ³ Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; ⁴ so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. ⁵ After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples’ feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him.

III. **God's Authority:**

Principle – “God’s authority is His right to tell His creatures what they must do.” “To say that God’s authority is absolute means that it covers all areas of human life. Everything we do is either to God’s glory or it is not.”

Principle – While Matthew 28 is the great commission, Jesus is granting to His people the authority to baptize in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit—based on the reality that all authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him.

Principle – Jesus demonstrates the responsibility of Holding Authority Given by God. We clearly see that Jesus uses the authority He has been given, which eventually leads to his death upon the cross.

IV. **Discussion Questions:**

1. How do we, as fallen creatures, generally respond to authority, even God’s authority?
2. As God’s children, how do we resemble our own children at times when we do not recognize God’s authority in their lives?
3. What did Jesus do with His authority, having been “given all things into His hands?” How did he demonstrate the sacred trust that comes with authority?
4. Over what areas of life does our culture suggest that God has no authority?
5. While Jesus had the responsibility given to Him for all things into His hands, He stuns His disciples, becoming the lowly servant. What does this demonstrate to us about using God’s authority provided to us in our own lives?

V. **Responding in Prayer:**

- That we would grow in our understanding of Biblical authority, as God applies His love and discipline on our lives.
- That God would through Jesus’ example make us first and foremost sacrificial servants to our children, recognizing their need for discerning grace and wisdom in required discipline.