
Standards and Rules

Answer Key

I. The purpose of God's laws (and our rules):

- A. The law defines and **exposes** sin. Romans 3:20-22. Galatians 3:24-25.
- B. The law exposes the desires of our **hearts**. Romans 7:5-9
- C. Getting children to obey the rules is not the **ultimate** goal even though it is a very important part of parenting and must be done. It is only a first step. Col. 2:20-23.
- D. Exposing and dealing with the attitude of the heart is the **goal**.
 - 1. If they can meet God's law, there is no need for a Savior. Pharisees.
 - 2. Show them that they (and you) **can't** meet the requirements of God's law.
 - 3. We must deal with **heart** attitudes. This is what training really is. Why did they do that? What were they thinking?
 - 4. Adding another rule will not solve the problem of breaking a rule.
Examples: Fighting over the TV remote. Tripping example. Hitting. (I didn't hit them, I slapped them. I didn't slap them, I pinched them.) Will another rule solve these? How will you solve them?

II. What are the standards of behavior? Biblical commands vs. House rules.

- A. Biblical commands. (This is not intended to be an exhaustive list. Only examples.)
 - 1. Children must be **God**-oriented. Exodus 20:1-11; Matthew 22:37-38.
 - 2. Children must be **other**-oriented. Exodus 20:12-17; Matt. 5; Matt. 22:39-40.
 - 3. Children are to honor and obey their parents. Ephesians 6:1-4.
 - 4. Children must not **retaliate**, but rather respond in a Godly way when they are sinned against. Romans 12:14-21.
 - 5. Children must **esteem** others. Philippians 2:1-11.
 - 6. Children must obey other authorities over them. Romans 13:1-7, I Peter 2:13-17.
 - 7. **All** believers should agree on these standards of behavior. They are non-negotiable as they come from the Absolute Authority.

B. House Rules. (Biblical freedoms to be determined by the parents.)

1. Chores/responsibilities, movies/TV, modesty, curfew, music, Halloween, etc.
2. Key passages: **Romans 14**, I Corinthians 8.
3. Key principles:
 - a. Who is responsible for the decision? Who will answer to God for it?
 - b. **Authority** is given to carry out **responsibility**. Ephesians 6:1-4. Romans 13:1-7. Hebrews 13:17.
4. The rules for your children will be different from those of your children's friends. That's ok. Explain (particularly to teens) **why** you have the convictions that you carry so that your children can make wise decisions when they establish their own households and must make those decisions.
5. Do not violate your child's **conscience**. If they believe that something is sinful, do not make them do it. Romans 14:23.
6. These are made out of obedience to God for the **benefit** of the children, not for your own convenience.
7. House rules are negotiable, not absolute. There may be times when you allow them to stay up past their bedtime, etc.

III. Avoiding legalism with house rules. What is the **purpose** of the rule?

A. Bedtimes.

1. What is the purpose of the rule?
2. Can they be changed for special events?
3. Can they be different for different aged children?

B. Movies.

1. What is the purpose of the rule?
2. Can you ever let your children watch an R-rated movie?
3. What about The Passion (for older children)? Why or why not?

C. Getting up after being put to bed.

1. What is the purpose of the rule?
2. What about the child who gets up to help a sibling who has fallen out of bed?
3. Did he disobey?

D. Others.

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Student Worksheet

I. The purpose of God's laws (and our rules):

- A. The law defines and _____ sin. Romans 3:20-22. Galatians 3:24-25.
- B. The law exposes the desires of our _____. Romans 7:5-9
- C. Getting children to obey the rules is not the _____ goal even though it is a very important part of parenting and must be done. It is only a first step. Col. 2:20-23.
- D. Exposing and dealing with the attitude of the heart is the _____.
 1. If they can meet God's law, there is no need for a Savior. Pharisees.
 2. Show them that they (and you) _____ meet the requirements of God's law.
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