

**RESPONDING TO
MANIPULATION
AND
DISRESPECT**

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Proverbs 26:4,5

I. The parental goal.

Prov. 12:15

The Bible describes a fool as one who is wise in his own eyes.

A. The parent of a fool.

Prov. 10:1

Prov. 17:21

Prov. 17:25

A fool is someone who won't listen to and heed counsel, who won't graciously submit to authority. The opposite of being a fool is being wise.

B. How should a parent respond?

1. Prov. 26:4

Don't answer him back in a foolish way.

2. Prov. 26:5

The parent needs to learn to answer rightly.

a. Stick to the issue at hand.

b. Don't get caught up in defending yourself.

c. The purpose is to bring conviction to them – not for you to second-guess yourself.

d. This child will walk away knowing this parent is in control, and not "wise in his own eyes".

e. The parent will walk away knowing that he/she was successful in training their child.

II. How Christ handled manipulation

Did people ever try to manipulate Christ?

A. Christ's method of operation.

1. He appealed to God and His Word which was His authority.
2. He pointed out the individual's responsibility.

B. Examples

1. Luke 6:1-5

THE PHARISEES:

CHRIST:

2. Luke 2:48,49

THE PARENTS:

CHRIST:

3. Luke 10:38-42

MARTHA:

CHRIST:

4. Mat. 15:1-11

THE PHARISEES:

CHRIST:

III. Making an appeal to parents

- You cannot accept refusal to obey.
- You cannot accept obedience only when when your children are convinced you are right or fair.

- You cannot be required to sell them on the priority of your directives.
- A. The child begins to obey immediately, not after the appeal.**
- B. The child may appeal only if there is new information to consider.**
- C. The child must appeal in a respectful manner. “May I appeal?”**
- D. The child must be prepared to obey regardless.**
- E. The child must accept the result of the appeal with a gracious spirit.**
- F. The child must present new information.**
- G. The child must only appeal to the parent giving the instruction.**
- H. The child may only appeal one time.**
- I. An appeal is a privilege, not a right.**
- J. Appeals are not to be made to get out of objectionable tasks.**

→ Benefits of the appeal procedure:

- The child has some resources.
- He learns to submit to authority in a context that is not arbitrary.
- He learns to approach his superiors in a respectful manner.
- The parent has the opportunity to rethink a decision.
- This is a good check against your impulsiveness as a parent.