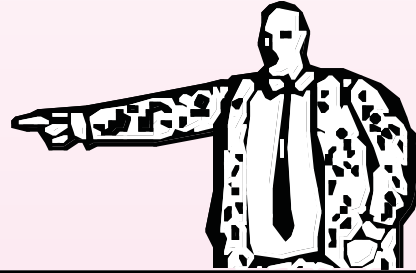


FATHER KNOWS BEST



ERIC'S STORY

"I'm your father and you'll do what I say," said Eric's father very firmly. Eric slumped away, feeling angry and dejected. He thinks, *I'll do it for now, but one day, I'll be free to do as I please.*



REFLECT

What does Eric
Do?
Think?
Feel?

TOOLBOX

- THINK
- OBSERVE
- CLOSE-UP
- WRITE
- DISCUSS
- FEELINGS
- BRAINSTORM
- REFERENCE
- PASSAGE
- ARTICLE
- BIG IDEA
- CROSSROAD



BRAINSTORM

What other authorities, institutions or rules do we *obey* simply because we *have to*?



EXPLORE

Why are these rules given?



EXPLORE

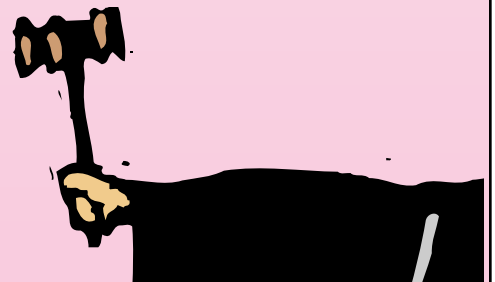
How do they make you feel?

In His Word, God has given us many instructions on how to live.



COMPARE/CONTRAST

How can our experiences with human authority affect our view of God?



Exploring the Truth



PSALM

A song that was sung at Jewish festivals to celebrate God's acts of deliverance for His people.

PSALM 81

- 1 Sing for joy to God our strength; shout aloud to the God of Jacob!
- 2 Begin the music, strike the tambourine, play the melodious harp and lyre.
- 3 Sound the ram's horn at the New Moon, and when the moon is full, on the day of our Feast;
- 4 this is a decree for Israel, an ordinance of the God of Jacob.
- 5 He established it as a statute for Joseph when he went out against Egypt, where we heard a language we did not understand.



OBSERVATION

WHO?

WHAT?

WHEN?

WHERE?

WHY?

HOW?

- 6 He says, "I removed the burden from their shoulders; their hands were set free from the basket.
- 7 In your distress you called and I rescued you, I answered you out of a thundercloud; I tested you at the waters of Meribah. *Selah*

What do you learn about:

God's heart?

8 "Hear, O my people, and I will warn you—
if you would but listen to me, O Israel!

- 9 You shall have no foreign god among you; you shall not bow down to an alien god.
- 10 I am the LORD your God, who brought you up out of Egypt.
Open wide your mouth and I will fill it.

God's plan for His people?

- 11 "But my people would not listen to me; Israel would not submit to me.
- 12 So I gave them over to their stubborn hearts to follow their own devices.

13 ***"If my people would but listen to me,***
if Israel would follow my ways,

14 how quickly would I subdue their enemies and turn my hand against their foes!

15 Those who hate the LORD would cringe before him, and their punishment would last forever.

16 But you would be fed with the finest of wheat; with honey from the rock I would satisfy you."

(emphasis added)

God's people? Why?



DEFINITION

Hear/Listen: (In Hebrew) Shama has the basic meaning "to hear." This is extended in various ways, generally involving an effective hearing or listening: (such as) to obey.

Theological Wordbook of Old Testament, p. 938.

A



SUMMARIZE

Relating the Truth



BIG IDEA

Every command is an expression of God's love for me, given for my protection and provision.



COMMAND

PROTECT

PROVIDE





CONSEQUENCES

If I choose my way . . .



CONSEQUENCES

If I obey . . .

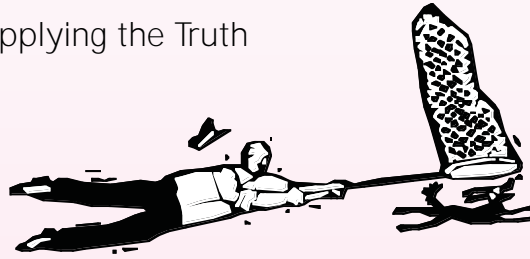




PROPER MOTIVES



HIGHEST MOTIVE

Applying the Truth




  **MY LIFE**


What command am I currently having difficulty obeying?

CONSEQUENCES	
If I obey . . .	If I don't obey . . .

Because of my love for God and His love for me, I will pursue obedience by . . .

 *The blessings of obedience always outweigh the costs of obedience.*
—Charles Artmann


For further thought:


 **EXAMINE**

Examine the life of Christ for other examples of obedience.

Consider: Luke 22:39-46
John 17:1-6

State His specific acts of obedience.
What are His motives?

 *If Christ be God and died for me, then there is no sacrifice too great for me to make for Him.*
—C.T. Studd

 *To know Christ is to love Him. To love Him is to trust Him. To trust Him is to obey Him.*
—Bill Bright

Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture references are taken from the *New International Version*, ©1973, 1978, 1984 by the International Bible Society. Published by Zondervan Bible Publishers, Grand Rapids, Michigan.