



Becky Combee Ministries, Inc.

Parents Rule With Love, Part 2

There were some little boys visiting our house one day when one of them disappeared down the hall. I went to see what he was doing and found him opening all the drawers in our bedroom dresser. “What are you doing?” I asked.

He said, “I’m checking out all your stuff!”

I said, “Well, close the drawers. You can’t check out my stuff.”

He looked at me with a puzzled expression that said, “I can’t check out your stuff?” Well, he can’t because it’s our house. And Wayne and I rule at our house. With his parents’ permission, he can open the drawers at his house. But he cannot open the drawers at our house because Wayne and I have authority here. We rule over our house. Now, let’s think about it. What does it mean “to rule”?



In First Timothy 3:4 the Scripture opens our heart to the leadership of a bishop or pastor and helps us define the word “rule”. It declares the bishop must be “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with

all gravity.” This is an important principle for all fathers, not just for bishops. It is a restatement of “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”¹ It doesn’t matter if you say “children obey” or if you say “children [are to be] in subjection.” The meaning is the same. Husbands and fathers are in charge. They rule their children and their children obey.

In the Greek language, one of the meanings of this word “rule” is “to preside.” When I am presiding over a meeting, I am in charge. What happens at the meeting is my responsibility. Husbands are in charge. They are presiding over their family. Their oversight is not a dictatorship. They are not aggressive and uncaring. They rule their family with great love and with great concern. They take charge and the word used in this scripture is “rule.”

To show the depth of this word “rule” the Word of God says “(For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)”² Do you see the scriptural definition of the word “rule”? It is “to take care of.” “To rule” a family is “to take care of” the family. The first year Wayne and I were married, I worked in the office of a brick manufacturing company. Every day the gentleman who was the head of that company would come in the back door and walk to the front of this long, long narrow building. As

he walked the hall to his office, he called every employee by name. He would say, “Good morning, Mrs. Betty. Good morning, John. Good morning, Mrs. Mary.” He never looked up. He did not glance toward their office doors. They might not be at their desk, but he wouldn’t know it. He just wanted them to know that he was aware of their presence. I loved that about him. He was in charge, yet he was aware of their presence. Parents must be aware, constantly aware of their child’s presence. They are nurturing their child in spirit, soul, and body. They are ruling with great care and great concern.

This word “care” in 1 Timothy 3:5 is a relative of the same word used in John 10 of the relationship of a shepherd and his sheep. I like that because the sheep do not tell the shepherd where they want to pasture. We saw sheep in the hills of Scotland. They color code them with dots that show ownership. Wayne was going to take pictures of the sheep. But before he got to the fence with his camera, the sheep were at the top of a steep hill. They ran because they don’t relate to strangers. They knew he was not the shepherd

– the one who cared for them.

In this same chapter of John, we are told that a hireling doesn’t care for the sheep. Here the Greek word care, “melo”, means “to be of interest to, to concern, or it matters.” If we understand this word, it is clear that the hireling is not interested in the sheep. When the sheep are in danger, the hireling flees. Their care does not matter to him. This is the opposite of good parenting. Parents are on the scene and they care. Their child senses their loving oversight and their concern. They are ruling in great love.

In every home parents are to rule. The scripture wouldn’t say “children obey” if mom and dad were not to rule. Instead it would read “parents obey your children.” Although it often appears that children are ruling, the Word of God is very clear. Parents rule. Children obey. What kind of rule is it? Now we know. It is the rule of love.

¹ Ephesians 6:1

² 1 Timothy 3:5



Jesus Loves Me

Voice

Je-sus loves me this I know, for the Bi-ble tells me so. Lit-tle ones to him be-long,
 7 they are weak but he is strong. Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus
 12 loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Lyrics: Anna B. Warner 1862 ~ Music: William B. Bradbury