

PRIDE AND REBELLION IN CHILDHOOD CONFESSION LIST

Check the ways pride and rebellion manifests itself in your child's life.

At birth every child is totally self-centered and self-absorbed focusing only on what pleases or comforts them. As you unconditionally love and accept your precious children you must help them recognize their sinfulness through establishing limits and then disciplining them for disobedience. Help your children learn to identify and articulate these sinful beliefs, attitudes and behaviors in themselves. Lead them through the process of confession, forgiveness and reconciliation when they do disobey, explaining how you and God forgive them when they confess their disobedience. (1 John 1:9)

- Not believing and trusting God by thinking their way is better
- Being selfish, self-centered, self-absorbed
- Having temper tantrums (outbursts of anger used to manipulate)
- Disobeying Parents (open defiance of limits parents establish)
- Unwilling to confess disobedience to Parents and to God
- Unwilling to ask forgiveness from those they have hurt or offended
- Unwilling to forgive those who hurt or offend them
- Trying to bargain with parents and/or God
- Being hard and independent, not opening themselves to receive love from God and others
- Being motivated by self-interest and self-protection rather than obeying out of love for God and others
- Trying to control and manipulate to get what they want
- Blaming others for their disobedience
- Rationalizing, ignoring, denying, excusing their disobedience
- Not paying attention to God's Word
- Not wanting to obey what the Lord directs them to do...Seems to hard or harsh
- Being unwilling to share with others
- Getting angry when others don't do what they want
- Unwilling to accept biblical advice or counsel (Prov. 19:20)

COMMON FEARS OF CHILDHOOD

- _____ • Fearful that you and/or God do not love and accept them unconditionally
- _____ • Fearful about safety and security in home or other environments
- _____ • Afraid of being separated from you
- _____ • Afraid of punishment or other physical pain
- _____ • Afraid of new environments and new people
- _____ • Afraid that they are not good enough
- _____ • Afraid of being rejected, left out, not included
- _____ • Believing you and/or God, do not love them because you don't give them what they want

These fears of children (whether recognized by children or not) may be the motivation that leads to sinful behaviors:

Check any of the following that you recognize in your children.

Because of fears they may seek approval, security, safety and comfort by:

- _____ • Striving for others' approval, affirmation, love, acceptance
- _____ • Being aggressive
- _____ • Being obnoxious
- _____ • Seeking to draw attention to themselves
- _____ • Being very timid, shy
- _____ • Being selfish, self-centered, self-absorbed
- _____ • Blaming others for problems
- _____ • Being disobedient
- _____ • Being overly sensitive and easily hurt
- _____ • Unforgiving
- _____ • Focusing on others' faults rather than their own
- _____ • Shifting blame to others
- _____ • Not being teachable

Because of fears they may seek to control or manipulate you or others to get what they want by:

- _____ • threats
- _____ • "guilt trips"
- _____ • self-pity, whining
- _____ • temper tantrums

Because of fears they may try to avoid conflict or pain by:

- _____ • Living to please others instead of obeying you and/or God
- _____ • Unwilling to say "no" to someone else's requests when they know it is wrong
- _____ • Suppressing or ignoring painful realities

As you make note of these behaviors, consider that the motivation may come from fear rather than out of normal self-centered behaviors seen in children.

Our desire in parenting is to help move our children from a place of fear to living a life of love, faith and trust in the Lord, living out the gospel in the fullness of God's Glory, Greatness, Goodness, and Graciousness.