

# Maybe the Greatest Satisfaction in Being a Father?

Finally Able to Say: "Because I Said So!"

This is probably the most identifiable saying of fathers – "Because I said so" (is that a smirk on his face?). When we don't understand why our fathers say something, they nevertheless expect us to do it "because I said so!"

There are three responses to this command:



Believer	Legalist	Defiant
<p>"While I don't understand why he is telling me to do this, I know from experience everything he tells me to do is for my good. Based on this, I am going to do my best to both understand and do what he tells me with Great Expectations that the end result will be very good!"</p>	<p>"I can't believe I am always having to do what is so hard - other people aren't having to do what I have to. But, at least, I will not get in trouble if I do what he says. And if I do it, maybe he will reward me."</p>	<p>"I don't understand because what he is telling me to do I don't want to do - and I believe all that is important is that I be happy! So, either I will say that I will do what I am told (play the role), and then just ignore it, or I will up-front be honest and say shout: 'No!'"</p>
<p>"I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!" Mk 9:24</p>	<p>"I was afraid of you, because you are a hard man. You take out what you did not put in and reap what you did not sow." Lk 19:21</p>	<p>"All who do evil are good in his eyes, and he is pleased with them" Mal 2:17</p>
<p>The "law" is largely forgotten in pursuit of the objective - diligently <u>seeking to do what is best and right</u>. Humbled by help received to do what I am told to do, asking "How much <b>can</b> I do?"</p>	<p>Chaffs under the burden. <u>Seeks not to do wrong</u>. Self-righteous in what is achieved. "How much do I have to do?"</p>	<p><u>Ridicules</u> the Orthodox and Conservative - "I can't believe you are so stupid - Did he really say . . .?" Ge 3:1</p>
Orthodox	Conservative	Liberal

The great fear of those in a current Orthodox position should be that, based on neglect and diversions, we slip from Grace —————> Law —————> Lawlessness. And this is inevitable without developing disciplines since, as we grow, we are expected to do more than age, we are counted on to mature – and developing disciplines is a key aspect of this maturing.

“I was saved x years ago! Baptized . . .” Good, but have you built on that faith or rested in and on it? If there is no evidence of growth since then (or currently) – is it possible it is was a false profession as we see and are warned about in the *Bible* time and again?

We have recently seen on an institutional, macro, level what happens to Orthodox individuals if they do not hold fast and hard (developing supporting disciplines) to their Orthodox, true and right, beliefs; which happens at the point we rest in our past faith – faith must be new every day or it becomes stale and decays. Even strong and real faith can decay and rot without very careful diligence; we can backslide – consider the Episcopal Church; at one time VERY Orthodox, grace was obvious and apparent. Fast forward to the late 20<sup>th</sup> Century and you find they have moved from Grace to and through ritual and law to lawlessness – finally becoming leaders in proclaiming the ageless “gospel” of the devil:

“All who do evil are good in his eyes, and he is pleased with them” Mal 2:17

Their gospel is one that God loves everyone, He made and accepts them as they are and is therefore pleased with them – makes sense, it just isn’t true and is no gospel at all! 2,000 years ago, Paul warned of the Episcopal error:

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God — having a form of godliness but denying its power. <sup>2Ti 3:1 - 5</sup>

We can be fooled and assume that everyone that has a form of godliness is Godly, but they aren’t! A primary factor in the “slippage” that occurs through neglect is our underlying nature to either conservatism or liberalism. Talk to anyone long enough and you will find if there is bias is liberal or conservative.

Again viewing the Episcopal Church as an example, they decided (even if slowly and subconsciously) to follow their liberal nature and leanings in place of God’s Word. While there are obvious example of conservative leaning religions (even mistakenly calling themselves Christians), the most common direction of neglected religion is usually to liberal because this leads to the lawlessness most people desire – the “right” to commit adultery, be legally selfish, use government to make others support causes they are interested in (abortion, liberalizing children in public schools . . .). And what should be alarming to everyone is the fact that, while we may be progressing (becoming more Orthodox), everyone has liberal and conservative beliefs that must we must mature out of if we are to continue growing; Orthodoxy is the only effective antidote to “flaming” liberalism and dead conservatism!

The fact about any and all living organisms is that they are either growing or decaying. While decline and decay may be masked (humans can very good at this with cosmetics, “procedures” and facades) we each are moving in one of the two directions – physically, mentally and spiritually.

“Because I Said So!” Choose your response. If you choose Orthodoxy to build and sustain (mature in) you must develop the defining disciplines necessary to grow and maintain the ground won in the great battle of and over our bodies, minds and souls.

Perseverance is the key, and normally the breakdown, on the road to possible disciplines. Any discipline will start out “loose” and somewhat ineffective; only with the perseverance of time will the discipline will be improved/tightened to increasing effectiveness.

Perseverance + Time → Discipline → Goal

As examples of possible places to start:



