

Dear Dad:
THE NEED TO SAY NO!
I Samuel 3:13

Will you condone or condemn your child's sinful behavior?

I. CONSIDER ELI'S FAMILY SITUATION (3:13)

A. SINNING SONS > *Sad!*

1. Cursed (3:13)
 - a. They were intensely dishonorable and disgraceful ... "unblessable"
 - b. They brought this vileness on themselves
2. Corrupt (2:12-17, 22)
 - a. Worthless men (12a) > Good for nothing "rascally scoundrels" (Strong's Concordance)
 - b. Uninformed about the Lord (12b)
 - They never learned to know Him and had no concern to do so
 - c. Greedy (13-15) > Robbing from the people and God
 - d. Intimidating (16-17) > A bullying abuse of authority
 - e. Immoral (22) > A shameless sensuality

B. KNOWLEDGE OF THE SIN > *Sadder!*

1. It is the iniquity which he knows!
2. He is aware of what is going on (2:22-24)
3. Note: Willing naivety is inexcusable

C. UNREBUKED SIN > *Saddest!*

1. Eli did not rebuke his sinning sons
 - a. He did not provide instruction or warn them > No admonition or exhortation
 - b. He basically ignored their sin "Well, that's just the ways kids are these days!"
2. At best, his reproof was very mild - See 2:22-25
 - a. Question but no condemnation (23) > Why do you do such things?
 - b. Comment but not condemnation (24) > It is not a good report that I hear.
 - c. Contemplation but no condemnation (25a) > If a man sins against the Lord who will intercede for him?
3. His mild rebuke was unheeded (2:25b)
 - a. By the time his boys reached adulthood ... it was, for the most part, too late!
 - b. They were used to Eli's fussing and doing nothing.

II. CONSIDER ELI'S UNDERLYING SINS (2:29)

A. REBELLION: Kicking at God's sacrifice and offering

1. He had a disrespect for God which caused a disregard for holy things
2. He had a disdain for God > "Kicking at His things" ... throwing off God's yoke

Over please >

B. IDOLATRY: Honoring his sons more than God

1. Misplaced priorities
2. We can lift our children up and leave God behind
 - By honoring them we glorify and then deify them they become our idols!

C. SELFISHNESS: Making yourselves fat ... Enjoying the fruits of their sin

III. **CONSIDER ELI'S PASSIVE RESPONSE** (3:13-18)

A. THE INFORMATION (13-14)

1. God' will judge Eli's house forever! (3:13)
2. There is no atonement for this iniquity (3:14)

B. THE INDIFFERENCE (18)

1. In effect Eli responds, "Oh well, this is God's business."
2. No confession of his sin
3. No intercession or intervention for his sons

IV. **CONSIDER YOUR SITUATION**

A. WILL YOU REBUKE YOUR SINFUL CHILD?

1. It takes courage and wisdom to confront
 - a. You will not be the most popular parent to your child or with other parents
 - b. Remember that God has called you to be your child's parent and not her pal.
2. Remember that if you won't discipline your child God will!

B. WILL YOU CONFESS YOUR SINS?

1. What underlying sins do you need to confess?
2. Get the beam out our your eye so you can see clearly to work on your child's - Mt. 7:5

C. WILL YOU SAY "NO" TO YOUR CHILD'S SINFUL DESIRES?

1. Is your goal to make them "happy" or make them holy?
2. What boundaries have you set?

D. WHAT WILL BE GOD'S EVALUATION OF YOUR PARENTING PRACTICES?

CONCLUSION:

**Dear dad, a primary rule for parenting is the need to say no to your child's sinful ways.
- How are you doing?**