

Respect for Parents & God; Intro: A Fortiori Conclusion

Once the child learns that it is to his benefit to comply then he can advance under the indirect method. The conversion from enforced to genuine humility takes place as the child develops within his conscience a set of norms and standards clearly identifying right and wrong.

Willing compliance to these standards is the achievement of genuine humility and a lifestyle conducted under the leadership of the indirect method of spiritual growth. Children come to respect their parents in the same two ways that the believers come to respect God:

Children who are positive to parental chastisement and learn from it principles of right and wrong, respect their parents' authority and right to rule.

Children who are positive to parental mandate and learn through experience that it is to their benefit to comply, respect their parents' wisdom.

Believers who are positive to the pain and suffering of divine discipline enter into reversion recovery.

They respect the power and justice of God under the principle of enforced humility and are able to endure recovery under the principle of fear and trembling.

Believers who are positive to the teaching of Bible doctrine learn that God's desire is to bless them exceedingly abundantly.

They respect the love and grace of God under the principle of genuine humility and are able to advance under the principle of reverence and respect.

God keeps a running dossier on every believer. We have learned that Jesus Christ updates the file daily in two categories: emotional stability and stream-of-conscience inventory.

Revelation 2:23 - Furthermore, I will execute her followers by means of the sin unto death and so all the churches will know that I am He Who constantly inventories the emotions and the stream of consciousness, and I will impose punishment to each one of you according to your production from the Cosmic System.

With His complete knowledge of your thought process, God is able to determine what category of pain and suffering to inflict, the degree to which it should be imposed, and the manner by which it should be justly administered. His intent is to challenge volition to make a decision that will result in reversion recovery: *metanoeo* 'omologeo didaktos; and *misthos*.

For a child, parental discipline results in a recovery process where the child admits he is wrong, that his parents are right, and that he deserves his punishment. In time he will develop a respect for his parents' authority and right to rule and come to accept their norms and standards of right and wrong.

People of Hillary Clinton's ilk will retort that under the principle of children's rights, each child has the right to decide for himself what is right or wrong and thus parents do not have the right to determine these things for them.

The implication here is that there are no set standards—what Russell Kirk calls, "*the permanent things*." This worldview asserts that what we call "*traditional*" standards of morality are only one view of morality, no better or worse than any other standard of right and wrong.

But the cold fact remains, that whether or not parents' standards are just or unjust, fair or unfair, right or wrong, their standards are better than none. Reason? A child born with a conscience which is tabula rasa and a functional sinful nature is not capable of developing any standards of behavior that would be compatible within civilized humanity.

Therefore, the mandate stands: “*Children, obey your parents in all things!*”

Hebrews 12:9a - Another point. We used to have our human parents for corrective chastisement and we looked on them with respect.

Next come the application to the spiritual life: *polus + mallon* - Idiom: “to a greater degree”

What follows is a conclusion which is inferred to be even more certain than the one just made.

polus + mallon - is the Greek way of introducing a figure of speech, called in the Latin, a fortiori (aye fore—she—o—rye).

Fowler, H. W. A Dictionary of Modern English Usage. New York: (2d ed.) Oxford University Press, 1965, p. 14:

a fortiori. Introducing a fact that, if one already accepted is true, must also and, still more obviously, be true. It could not have been finished in a week; a.f. not in a day.

Webster's 9th New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. “a fortiori”:

[Lit., from the stronger (argument)]: with greater reason or more convincing force--used in drawing a conclusion that is inferred to be even more certain than another.

This figure was used repeatedly by Paul in Romans 5. In order to demonstrate how this figure of speech works in Pauline writings, let's note the four occurrences found in Romans 5:8-Romans 5:17.

Romans 5:8 - But God demonstrated His own love to us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died instead of us.

Romans 5:9 - [*polus mallon*] With greater reason, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be delivered from punishment through Him.

Romans 5:10 - For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God by means of the death of His Son, [*polus mallon*] with greater reason, having been reconciled, we shall be delivered in His life.

Romans 5:15 - For if by the transgression [Adam's original sin] of one [Adam], the many died spiritual death [and they all did (1CC)], [*polus mallon*] with greater reason, the grace of God, even the gift of grace by the one Man, Jesus Christ, has been provided in abundance [escrow blessings imputed to every believer's account in eternity past] for the many [believers].

Romans 5:16 - In fact, the gift [Jesus Christ] is not like what occurred through the one who sinned [Adam]. For, on the one hand, the judicial verdict came by one transgression resulting in condemnation [spiritual death], but, on the other hand, that gracious gift [the work of Christ on the cross] was given because of many transgressions [personal sins of the entire human race] resulting in one judicial act of justification.

Romans 5:17 - For if by the transgression of one [Adam's original sin], spiritual death ruled through that one [imputation of Adam's original sin to all Homo sapiens at physical birth], and it did, [*polus mallon*] with greater reason, those who receive in life the abundance from grace [escrow blessings in time] and the gift of righteousness, [*polus mallon*] with greater reason, they shall rule through the One, Jesus Christ [escrow blessings in eternity; Nike Award #4 and Nike Award #7].