

A. Definition of Terms

1. Rebellion

Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. “rebellion”:

Disobedience to a command. Open or determined defiance or resistance to any authority or controlling power. Insubordinate, defying lawful authority.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. “rebellion”:

Opposition to one in authority. syn rebellion implies an open formidable resistance that is often unsuccessful. Revolution applies to a successful rebellion resulting in a major change.

2. Revolution

Oxford English Dictionary, s.v. “revolution”:

A complete overthrow of the established government ... by those who were previously subject to it.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary, s.v. “revolution”:

A fundamental change in political organization; the renunciation of one ruler and the substitution of another by the governed.

The child who knowingly disobeys the imperative moods found in parental policies is involved in rebellion. The child who resists the lawful authority and power of his parents is in rebellion.

Whenever parental will, desire, or direction is openly defied or resisted, the child is in rebellion. Whenever a child is successful in his acts of rebellion, to that degree he has pulled off a revolution.

With only a few exceptions, such as Lizzie Borden and the Menendez brothers, these revolutions are bloodless coups.

An extensive list of the thoughts, decisions, and actions which constitute instances of rebellion should be of a great help to parents. Although the list we are about to present should not be considered exhaustive, it is broad enough to help parents fill in any missing blanks. Further, both children and adults may be surprised to learn the many ways in which they have routinely rebelled against parental authority.

Rebellion is a willful rejection of parental authority and can be expressed either actively or passively. Some examples:

1. Says “no” to your request, direction, or assignment.
2. Strikes out at you physically.
3. Consistently ignores or claims to “forget” your instructions. The “*I forgot*” problem-solving device is an admission that your words are not important enough for him to remember. There are ways to stimulate recall.
4. A more active form of this type of rebellion is to pitch fits, to shout “*I ain’t gonna do it*”, or to defiantly walk away while you are still talking.
5. Interrupts you or talks to others or himself while you are giving directions.
6. Refuses to accept your correction by projecting blame onto something or someone else.
7. Stonewalling, or the refusal to discuss an issue, admit guilt, confess wrongdoing, and, if necessary, apologize.

8. Typical passive rebellion can sometimes be detected by the presence of facial expressions, such as, disgust, anger, disrespect, or certain guttural sounds like spewing, hissing, or snorting.
9. A very subtle form of passive rebellion is last-second submission. The child plays a game in which he seeks to impose his will over his parents' by not obeying until absolutely necessary to avoid punishment.
10. An extension of this tactic is to finally do what is asked but to do it in a slipshod manner. There is more to obeying than just doing what is asked. There is a right way and a wrong way to do it. If it's done the wrong way, then it's not done and the reason is disobedience and rebellion.
11. A variation on this tactic is to deviate from the process and procedure that the parents have established for the execution of a given task. This may involve innovation, taking shortcuts, or skipping steps in order to "*get through*." Submission to authority means to obey in the precise manner stipulated by the parents.
12. In addition to active and passive rebellion there is internal rebellion. This is manifest by sulking, pouting, and other mannerisms which display mental attitude sins. The quiet sullen child is a time bomb ready to explode.
13. Thus, rebellion takes on many forms but in every case there is a knowing and willing rejection of parental will by the child and submission to one's own.

Since parents have the right and authority to set and enforce policy then anytime there is a conflict between parent and child the problem exists because the child has chosen to revolt.

The child's soul is under assault from his sinful nature. He chooses his own will over that of the parents. The rejection of external controls by the child is a signal to the parent that he is submitting to internal controls influenced by the sinful nature. This is in effect a statement by the child that he has chosen to place himself on equal footing with his parents. This then is a direct challenge to parental right to rule and is the expression of a rebellious mental attitude. Rebellion not only involves sins from the emotional complex, it finds its origin in the arrogance complex.

It was arrogance which precipitated the fall of Lucifer and ushered in the Angelic Conflict.

Isaiah 14:13 – “But you [Lucifer] said in your stream of conscience, ‘I will ascend to heaven [throne room of God]; I will raise my throne above the stars of God [the angelic creation], and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north [the place of justice and judgment].’

Isaiah 14:14 – ‘I will ascend above the heights of the clouds [rulership authority over the entire creation]; I will make myself like the Most High [expression of desire and intent to acquire equal status with God].’”