

March 3, 2021

Children want to know **WHY**. It's the famous question that has often exasperated parents and teachers, resulting in the thoroughly unsatisfactory answer of "**Because I said so!**" I swore that when I became a parent, I would never use that on my children and my mother laughed at the claim. She was still laughing, years later, after hearing me say it to my three year old son!

Why can't I see my eyes?

Why don't crabs have eyebrows?

Why won't you buy me an Xbox?

Now, I don't always use the "because I said so," as an answer. Usually it comes out only when my child either cannot understand, or refuses to understand. Maybe the answers boggle my own mind (Why **don't** crabs have eyebrows?), or perhaps the answer involves concepts that are beyond their cognitive development. Or, perhaps the answer means they have to accept not getting their wishes satisfied (why won't you buy me an Xbox?) and the questions are a precursor to battle. So, we fall back on the age-old "because I said so" response. It's a signal, really, that we are no longer interested in the discussion.

There are many things that even grown ups do not understand, and it does not stop us asking the question **why?** Sometimes we wail out the question in unbearable pain, allow our hearts to harden when prayer requests aren't answered in the way we wished. Sometimes, we blame our reality on God, and refuse to accept our own culpability in our own messes.

For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. 1 Corinthians 3:19

As parents, we want our children to accept the "Because I said so" answer. We're weary of trying to explain things to them they cannot yet understand. We want them to just trust us to do what is best for them, not argue and exhaust us with repeated pleas to follow dreams or impulses that will only break their heart. Yet, how many times have we copied the behavior of our own children, bargaining through prayers, arguing for blessing, begging for insights. "All things are possible with God," it says. Couldn't he give me the understanding, and the knowledge, if I ask for it?

Yes, my friend. Of course He can.

But will you accept it?