

Parents and Children in the New Humanity (Eph 6:1-4)

Key thought: Children obeying parents and parents rearing children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord honors Christ and His Church

Introduction:

- Personal disclaimer
- God's principle means of evangelism is in the family
 - The qualifications of Elders and Deacons focus on the family
 - 1Ti 3:4-5, 1Ti 3:12
- Paul has painstakingly laid out the position in Christ for the believer (Eph 1-5)
- Paul continues this theme of working out humble submission in the first four verses of Ephesians 6

Main Idea: Children obeying parents and parents rearing children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord honors Christ and His Church

I. The indicatives

a. Called to obey (vs 1)

- i. Children are born rebels (illustration)
- ii. Children
 1. Not just little children
 2. Considered children until they are married and leave the home
- iii. Obey
 1. Hear, listen with attentiveness
 2. Implies action
- iv. Honor
 1. Speaks to attitude (good attitude without rancor)
- v. In the Lord
 1. Obeying parents for the Lord's sake
- vi. This is right:
 1. This is God's command

b. Verse 2 and 3

- i. Honor your Father and Mother:
 1. Value highly
 - a. Throughout all of life (Matt 15: 4-6)
 2. Hold in highest regard
 - a. Talking back, yelling, hitting dishonor parents and God
 3. Respect (Illustration: Respect the uniform)
- ii. First commandment with promise
 1. May be well with you (quality of life)
 - a. Psa 18:30
 2. May live long (longevity of life)
 - a. Psa 90: 10-12

c. Verse 4

- i. Fathers: Previous verses were directed at husbands and wives. This verse can be directed solely at the husband, but likely addresses both spouses.
- ii. Do not provoke
 1. This is a sustained relational, **ungodly** irritant
 2. Pattern of improper parenting without love
- iii. Bring them up
 1. Your children are placed in your care to be brought up by you
 2. Example of Paul (1 Thes 2:11-12)

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3. It is a parent's responsibility to bring up children (cannot be delegated or ignored)
- iv. Nurture / discipline
 1. Systematic training of children (Deu 6:6-9)
 2. Correction of wrongdoing
 - a. You must conquer the will of your child
 - b. Quote from Susanna Wesley (John MacArthur commentary on Ephesians)
- v. Admonition / instruction
 1. Putting, placing thoughts in the mind of the child
 2. Teach the absolutes of right and wrong
 3. Make it part of their psyche

II. The imperatives

a. Children obey (vs 1)

- i. Let's face it, this requires living in the Spirit (goes against our rebellious nature) Eph 5:18
 1. Example of Isaac's obedience to a godly Father (Gen 22:7)
- ii. Obey Parents
 1. Even if they are not right
 - a. Example of Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:49-51)
 - b. Knowing that you are honoring God (Heb 12:9-10)
 - c. Honor parents even after leaving the home
 - i. Show deference to them, make them a part of your lives
 - ii. Seek counsel from them. They know you better than anyone else (Moses and Jethro – Gen 18:14, 24)
 - iii. Care for them in old age
 1. A godly parent's retirement plan lies in the charity and success of their children

iii. In the Lord

1. Paul is speaking to Christians and children of Christians
2. View your submission as an act of submission to Christ
3. Submission to your parents who you see, illustrates the faith that you have in God the Father, who you have not seen
4. To be rebellious is to break the illustrative purpose of God's design

iv. This is right

- a. You don't get to judge your parent's decision making and decide if you will obey or not
 - i. You demonstrate your belief in God's word and His authority when you do what is 'right'
 - b. It is right 100% of the time to obey your parents if they are not asking you to sin
 - c. Do not talk back!
 - d. Do not hate in your heart!
 - e. Do not be sneaky (manipulative)
- b. Honor your Parents and claim the promises (vs 2-3)**
- i. Don't rationalize your responsibility away (Matt 15:4-6)

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- ii. Work for peace in your family by a demonstration of faith through obedience
- iii. Plunge yourself into the faith of knowing you will be blessed by God for your obedience
- c. **Fathers and Mothers** (vs 4)
 - i. Walk with God or you will provoke your kids
 - ii. Side note: A child going astray will divide a husband and wife
 - iii. Giving in to your children is setting them up for wrath
 - 1. Pro 29:15, Pro 22:15
 - iv. Provocation comes in many forms:
 - 1. Overprotection
 - 2. Favoritism
 - 3. Demanding perfection
 - 4. Failing to parent (not making sacrifices for your kids)
 - 5. Physical and verbal abuse
 - v. Train your kids to love the Lord
 - 1. Not an option to bring up your children
 - 2. **Don't be a hypocrite!**
 - 3. Be purposeful in talking about the Lord and instructing the children in the Bible
 - vi. Don't abandon your kids after they have left the house

III. Questions

- a. When should a Parent seek help (Christian counseling) in the rearing of their children?
- b. Is the home the primary place for evangelizing?
- c. How can the husband and wife stay on the same page with regard to child rearing?
- d. What do you do with a child who shows signs of rebellion?
- e. What do you do with parents who are provoking you to anger?
- f. What do the roles in the family (Husband, Wife, Children) teach us about our relationship to the God and the Church?
- g. What are some ways that we do well in teaching our children to obey?
- h. What are some ways we fail in teaching our children to obey?