

INSTRUCTION GIVEN TO CHILDREN AND PARENTS ABOUT PROPER RELATIONSHIPS

Ephesians 6:1-4

As we saw last week children are of great importance to our Lord and thus should be to us as well. We are given instruction as to how we teach and train children to _____ like Christ.

I. Child/Parent relationship

A. Eph 6:1; Col 3:20

1. *THE Christian family is the cradle and the fortress of the Christian faith. Obedience is the law of childhood. It is, in great part, the child's religion, to be practiced "in the Lord." Expositor's Bible*
2. _____ obedience on the part of the child produces a bond of unity between the parent and the child. It is obedient behavior on the part of the child which _____ the blessings of God on the home, the parents, and the future of the child.
3. For the child to fulfill this Biblical command, the child must listen to the parent and submit to the parent's _____ over them. This does not come _____. It is something that must be taught to the child by the parents on a continuous and consistent basis. This process will _____ be without its difficult and frustrating times, but the ultimate reward for the parent's faithfulness in teaching the child this command will be worth all the effort of the parents.

B. Eph 6:2-3

1. **Honor**-to hold in high _____; to respect the fact that they have been placed there by _____ as the parents of the child, thus respecting the "position" of the parent in the home
 - a. This attitude had _____ to do with the parent(s),
 - b. It has _____ to do with God and the one to whom the commandment is given, since He is the One making the promise to the child
 - c. Children you will _____ the consequences of how you treat your parents
2. **First commandment with promise**-Cf Exodus 20:12 the first of the 10 commandments which came with a promise for the one who _____

II. Parent/Child relationship

A. Eph 6:4 *And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*

1. **Provoke**-to call or _____ up
2. **Wrath**-_____ the child and thus create a feeling of frustration and anger in the heart of the child
3. **Bring them up**-give _____ nourishment to through words and actions
4. **Nurture**-instruction, correction, discipline, and training to build _____ the hearer
5. **Admonition**-instruction, correction, discipline, and training to _____ the hearer
6. **Of the Lord**-the _____ authority concerning parent and children instruction

B. Col 3:21 *Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.*

1. **To anger**-added by the translators of the KJV for clarity
2. **Discouraged**-disheartened or _____ in their spirit

C. 1 Thes 2:11 *As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children*

- a. **Know**-were _____ aware of
- b. **Exhorted**-admonished and _____

- c. **Comforted**-ministered to you in such a way as to meet your need right where you _____
- d. **Charged**-gave clear understandable _____ as to what to do for their good
- e. **As a father doth his children**-As parents we must _____ our techniques on a continual basis. We must make continual _____ as the child grows and matures to minister to the child where they are, not where we think they should be. We must make sure that we are _____ exhorting, comforting, and charging our children for the glory of God, and not for our own personal benefit.

- D. The relationship between the parent and child must be one of _____ - _____, discipline, consistent training, and teaching, _____ with love, tenderness, understanding, compassion, _____, and grace
- E. As the _____ in the home, the parents, especially the father, must show a Christ-like spirit toward the child. It is with the same mercy and grace that God demonstrates toward the parent that the parent should demonstrate toward the child. For the parents to do _____ will create a sense of frustration and discouragement in the heart of the child and thus affect the obedience of the child to the commands given him/her by the Word of God.

III. _____ children are a requirement for men to serve as leaders in the local church

1 Tim 3:4, 12

- A. Part of _____ the spirituality of proposed church leaders is the condition of their relationship with their wife and children. This cannot be overlooked. A man who is seeking to follow the Lord's command as a parent, cannot hide the controlled behavior of his children. This controlled behavior must be _____, and not dictatorial on the part of the father.
- B. In the same way that a father deals with his children, so he will deal with the _____ over which he is placed to minister, whether as a pastor or deacon. Learning about a man as a father will greatly enhance one's understanding of whether he is qualified as a _____ church leader.

Concl. The Scripture speaks of children over _____ times. As we study what the Scripture teaches us about children, we will become better equipped to _____ them. The responsibility of parenting is not to be taken as a drudgery but should be considered a wonderful _____ to shape an eternal soul for eternity, because that is exactly what a parent does.