

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 6:1-4 Paul continues teaching on submission by presenting 4 commands concerning the relationship between children and parents.

- I. Children, you must obey your parents (v. 1a).
 - A. How? In the Lord (v. 1b).
 - B. Why? Because it is right (v. 1c).
- II. Children, you must honor your parents (v. 2).
 - A. Reason #1: You will benefit (v. 3a).
 - B. Reason #2: You will live long (v. 3b).
- III. Fathers (and mothers), you must not provoke your children to anger (v. 4a).
- IV. Fathers (and mothers), you must nourish & train your children (v. 4b).
 - A. Lesson #1: The discipline of the Lord (v. 4c).
 - B. Lesson #2: The instruction of the Lord (v. 4d).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 20, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 6:1-4

Memory Passage: Ephesians 6:1-4 (Review 1:1-5:33)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:1-4.** Why do you think Paul speaks first to the subordinate member of each pair in 5:22-6:9?
- (b) Is the command for children to “obey” stronger or weaker than the command for wives to “submit?” Explain.
- (c) The prepositional phrase “in the Lord” modifies “obey,” not “parents.” How will you explain this concept to a child?
- (d) Why does Paul say “for this is right?” In what way, by what standard, is this right (cf. Eph. 5:15ff & Col. 3:20)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:1-4, Ex. 20:12, & Deut. 5:16.** Paul tells the Colossians that children should obey their parents “in everything” (3:20). Are there limits to “everything?” If so, what are they? How will children know if these limits are reached?
- (b) In what areas of your life do you show honor to others? How can these relationships help you teach this concept to your children? Explain, in language a child will understand, what it means to “honor” one’s parents.
- (c) Why does Paul explain this command with “(for this is the first commandment with a promise)?” Are there others?
- (d) Explain the benefits of honoring and obeying parents found in v.3. Are these guarantees? If not, how do we apply them?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:1-4.** Paul writes directly to children in vs. 1-3. What does this tell you about the place of children in the corporate worship services of the 1st century (where this letter would have been read)? How should this inform our contemporary practices concerning children and corporate worship services?
- (b) Though the context dictates Paul is speaking to children still at home under their parents’ authority, the Greek word translated “children” can be used of children of any age. Do these verses have any implications for adult children with regard to their relationship with their parents? How does obedience to these commands change with age? For help see Matt. 15:1-9, 19:16-22, & Mark 7:5-15.
- (c) Why are children tempted to disobey or dishonor their parents? How can you teach children to combat these temptations?
- (d) What dangers lie ahead in the lives of children who are not taught, or who refuse to obey, these commands?

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:1-4.** N.B. Ephesians 6:4 requires the fathers to be ultimately responsible for these commands, but the mother is actively involved in and bound by them as well as part of her submission to her husband’s authority.
- (b) What does “provoke” mean?
- (c) In what ways can parents provoke their children to anger? Suggest ways for all ages and both sexes, and remember to consider long-term effects of certain actions as well as short-term or immediate responses.
- (d) Are parents responsible for every instance of their children’s anger? Are the children ever responsible? Explain.

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

- (a) **Read Eph. 6:1-4, Deut. 4:9; 6:1-9.** What is the difference between “discipline” and “instruction?”
- (b) The Greek word translated “bring them up” is the same word translated “nourish” in 5:29. Explain what this requires?
- (c) How does the phrase “of the Lord” affect our understanding? How do we know what is proper discipline and instruction?
- (d) What dangers lie ahead for our children if parents neglect the teaching in Eph. 6:4? What dangers lie ahead for us as parents, for our churches, and for our society? Alternatively, what blessings await us in each area if we obey these commands?

DATE: August 20, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 6:1-4

Children and Parents