

105 - This Is Right - Ephesians 6:1-2 - 2016-08-14

Call to Worship: Psalm 19:7-9

Scripture Reading: Proverbs 20:1-11

Sermon: "This Is Right" Ephesians 6:1-2

Benediction: Hosea 14:9

INTRODUCTION

What a delight it was last week to arrive at these verses and hear, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord"! I was blessed to learn later that in some of the families the children have been taught these verses already.

We learned what it is for children to obey

- to "listen under" to listen as those who are under to your parents who are over you; to listen attentively when they speak
- to do what they tell you
 - right away
 - cheerfully
 - thoroughly
- not to do what they forbid
- to accept their correction

We learned that there is nothing bad about obeying, despite what the world would tell you, but instead obeying your parents will serve you well as a way of life for all your days.

We learned that children are to obey their parents "in the Lord," as unto God, obeying our parents as part of obeying God Himself. Even the Lord Jesus Christ Himself did this, obeying all the will and commandments of God the Father, with the result that everyone who believes in Jesus may have everlasting life, and Jesus will raise him up at the last day.

Today we take the last few words of verse one and learn what it means, children, that you are to obey your parents "**for this is right.**"

TEXT

Ephesians 6:1-2a Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. (2) "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER,"

BODY

- I. Children, To Obey Your Parents in the Lord Is Right
 - A. "right" in the bible as it was written in Greek is the word G1342 *diakaios*
 1. it is sometimes translated "just"
 2. and often translated "righteous"
 3. sometimes, as here, it is translated as "right"
 - B. "right"
 1. is a very ancient word common to almost all of the European languages
 2. Latin *rictus*
 3. I remember from German class the word *richt*
 4. I noticed Audrey saying "*recht*" in Dutch
 5. word has been present in English all along, since Old English
 6. 1828 Webster In morals and religion, just; equitable; accordant to the standard of truth and justice or the will of God. That alone is right in the sight of God, which is consonant to his will or law;
 7. that is, if it lines up with God's law, it is right or just or righteous
 - C. Used sometimes of
 1. things people do, as here in our verse (less often)
 2. people (more often)
 - D. You know that to obey your parents is right because God Himself said and wrote in the Ten Commandments, "Honor your father and mother"
 1. (more on that in a future sermon, God willing)
 - E. This is why you are to obey your parents, "for this is right"
 1. there are other good things about obeying your parents
 - a) it will get you what is good for you
 - b) it will keep you out of trouble
 - c) it will be good for other people
 - (1) your parents
 - (2) your brothers and sisters
 2. but those are just on the side; the main thing is that this is right
 3. note that it is assumed you would do what is right
 4. indeed that is to be your thought in everything---to do what is right
- II. If To Obey Your Parents Is Right, then Not to Obey Your Parents Is a Great Evil
 - A. Most of the time we don't think of it as being so bad
 1. children don't
 2. parents don't
 3. society in general doesn't
 4. this is by the schemes of the devil
 - B. But God has told us in the bible that not obeying your parents is a wicked, evil thing; you can see that in at least three ways in the bible
 1. see it in what the bible says is the opposite of "right" or "righteous"
 - a) "right" is the opposite of "evil" 1 John 3:11-12 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12)

not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were **evil [G4190 poneros]** and his brother's **righteous [G1342 diakaios]**.

- b) "right" is the opposite of "unjust" Matthew 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the **just** and on the **unjust G94 adikos**.
 - c) "right" is the opposite of "sinful" Matthew 9:13 But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE.' For I did not come to call the **righteous**, but **sinners [G268 hamartolos sinful]** , to repentance."
 - d) "right" is the opposite of "lawlessness" Matthew 13:41-43 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice **lawlessness [KJV iniquity NIV evil] [G459 anomia]**, (42) and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (43) Then the **righteous** will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
 - e) "right" is the opposite of "wicked" Matthew 13:49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the **wicked [ESV evil] [G4190 poneros]** from among the **just**,
 - f) "right" is the opposite of "disobedient" Luke 1:17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,' and the **disobedient [G545 apeithes]** to the wisdom of the **just**, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
 - g) "right" is the opposite of "evil" 1 Peter 3:12 FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE **RIGHTEOUS**, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO **EVIL [G2556 kakos]**."
 - h) "right" is the opposite of "ungodly" 1 Peter 4:18 Now "IF THE **RIGHTEOUS** ONE IS SCARCELY SAVED, WHERE WILL THE **UNGODLY [G765 asebes]** AND THE SINNER APPEAR?"
 - i) something that is NOT right IS unjust, sinful, lawless, wicked, disobedient, evil, ungodly
 - j) so, when the bible says, "children, obey your parents, for this is right," it means that not to obey your parents is unjust, sinful, lawless, wicked, disobedient, evil, ungodly
2. see it in the things it is listed with
- a) Exodus 20:1-17
 - (1) do not do such things as worship false gods, bow down to idols, murder, steal, commit adultery, and dishonor your parents
 - b) 2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: (2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, (4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure

- rather than lovers of God, (5) having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!
- c) Romans 1:28-31 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, (30) backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;
 - d) notice that in all cases, disobeying your parents is not listed first or last, but is just right in there with those other sins
3. see it in the punishment that disobedient children deserve
- a) Romans 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are **deserving of death**
 - b) Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.
 - c) Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. (14) You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.
 - d) Deuteronomy 21:18-21 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, (19) then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. (20) And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' (21) Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

So, you see that to obey your parents is right, and not to obey them is a great evil deserving of God's wrath, poured out on the disobedient person in both death and hell

III. Because You Have Disobeyed Your Parents, You Cannot Be Right with God By Yourself

- A. You have not always obeyed your parents
 - 1. you had a share in disobeying God our heavenly Father when Adam and Eve disobeyed Him in the Garden of Eden
 - 2. you have disobeyed your parents, surely many times
 - 3. even the times you obeyed them, you may have been angry about it in your heart
- B. Even if you set your mind to it now, you cannot perfectly obey them
 - 1. not every time
 - 2. not always perfectly from the heart
- C. You deserve to die
 - 1. just as surely as a criminal who killed someone

2. not just regular death, but also going to hell forever after that
- D. You cannot get away from God's wrath by yourself
 1. you cannot go back and change what you have already done
 2. there's no where you can go to get away from God or hide from him
 3. you, with everyone else, must one day stand before the judgment seat of Christ

Because You Have Disobeyed Your Parents, You Cannot Be Right with God By Yourself

- IV. But Jesus Is Right with God, and He Came to Die, the One Right for Those Not Right, to Bring Us to God
 - A. He did not disobey His Heavenly Father in Adam
 1. He was born without a human father
 2. that shows us that He is not counted as sinning with Adam in the garden
 - B. He did not disobey His own parents, Joseph and Mary
 1. not ever
 2. not even in His heart
 - C. He did not fail to obey His heavenly Father's will even to death on the cross
 - D. On that cross, He died the horrible death that you deserve
 1. Jesus, the One who is right because He always does right
 2. died for the ones who are not right, who have not always done right
 - E. 1 Peter 3:18 Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust [the right for the not right], that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit,
 - F. Having the righteousness of Jesus Christ count for you, and having his death count as your punishment, comes to a person through faith, belief, trust. A sinner trusts himself to Jesus Christ. And I think that you children know very well how to trust someone to do something for you that you can't do for yourself
 1. Can you pay for the car, the gas, the food from the store, the clothes, the electricity, and everything else that needs to be paid for? It costs thousands of dollars every month. It costs around \$100 every day or more. You trust your parents to pay those for you.
 2. Can you go find and arrest the criminals when they have hurt people and stolen things from people? You trust the police officers to do that for you.
 3. Can you drive the car? You trust your parents to do that for you.
 4. Since you know very well what it is to trust someone else to have done for you what you cannot do for yourself, you can be told to trust Jesus Christ to do for you what you cannot do for yourself.
 - a) You cannot wash yourself clean from your sin of disobeying God your parents. Trust the Lord Jesus to do it.
 - b) You cannot make God see you are right when you are not right. Trust the Lord Jesus to do that.
 - c) You cannot make yourself go to heaven instead of going to hell for your disobedience. Trust the Lord Jesus to do that.

- V. All Children Are to Obey Your Parents, but You Children Who Believe in Jesus Christ Are Happy to Obey Them
- A. Hearing the command, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right." is a frightening thing if you do not trust Jesus to forgive you for not obeying. You might try to obey it, scared the whole time that God will send you to hell for not obeying well enough. If you won't believe in Jesus, won't cry to God for mercy, you are right to be afraid of that.
 - B. But when you do believe in Jesus the Righteous, trusting Him to save you, to make you right in God's sight even though you have disobeyed your parents, you can hear that commandment with joy. The Holy Spirit works inside you to make you happy about God's commandments, glad to obey the Lord Jesus Christ who saved you. You then aren't afraid the whole time what God will do to you, because you know God is happy with you and loves you because you are trusting in His beloved Son Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION

Luke 18:9-17 Also He spoke this parable to some who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others: (10) "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. (11) The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, 'God, I thank You that I am not like other men--extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this tax collector. (12) I fast twice a week; I give tithes of all that I possess.' (13) And the tax collector, standing afar off, would not so much as raise his eyes to heaven, but beat his breast, saying, 'God, be merciful to me a sinner!' (14) I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted." (15) Then they also brought infants to Him that He might touch them; but when the disciples saw it, they rebuked them. (16) But Jesus called them to Him and said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. (17) Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

- I. See that the reason given why you children should obey your parents is “this is right”
 - A. not because the preacher said, or even because the apostle or the bible said
 - B.
- II. Understand what “right” means, and what the opposite is
 - A. “right” is the Greek word G1342 *diakaios*
 1. it is sometimes translated “just”
 2. and often translated “righteous”
 - B. Used sometimes of
 1. actions, as here in our verse (less often)
 2. people (more often)
 - C. Examples of what the opposite is
 1. “right” is the opposite of “evil” 1 John 3:11-12 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were **evil [G4190 poneros]** and his brother's **righteous [G1342 diakaios]**.
 2. “right” is the opposite of “unjust” Matthew 5:45 that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the **just** and on the **unjust G94 adikos**.
 3. “right” is the opposite of “sinful” Matthew 9:13 But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE MERCY AND NOT SACRIFICE.' For I did not come to call the **righteous**, but **sinners [G268 hamartolos sinful]** , to repentance."
 4. “right” is the opposite of “lawlessness” Matthew 13:41-43 The Son of Man will send out His angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all things that offend, and those who practice **lawlessness [KJV iniquity NIV evil] [G459 anomia]**, (42) and will cast them into the furnace of fire. There will be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (43) Then the **righteous** will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. He who has ears to hear, let him hear!
 5. “right” is the opposite of “wicked” Matthew 13:49 So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come forth, separate the **wicked [ESV evil] [G4190 poneros]** from among the **just**,
 6. “right” is the opposite of “disobedient” Luke 1:17 He will also go before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, 'TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS TO THE CHILDREN,' and the **disobedient [G545 apeithes]** to the wisdom of the **just**, to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
 7. “right” is the opposite of “evil” 1 Peter 3:12 FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD ARE ON THE **RIGHTEOUS**, AND HIS EARS ARE OPEN TO THEIR PRAYERS; BUT THE FACE OF THE LORD IS AGAINST THOSE WHO DO **EVIL [G2556 kakos]**."
 8. “right” is the opposite of “ungodly” 1 Peter 4:18 Now "IF THE **RIGHTEOUS ONE** IS SCARCELY SAVED, WHERE WILL THE **UNGODLY [G765 asebes]** AND THE SINNER APPEAR?"

9. something that IS right is NOT unjust, sinful, lawless, wicked, disobedient, evil, ungodly

10. something that is NOT right IS unjust, sinful, lawless, wicked, disobedient, evil, ungodly

11. so, we talking about the difference between “right” and “evil”

III. We are not used to thinking that if you obey your parents, “this is right,” but if you disobey your parents, that is unjust, sinful, lawless, wicked, disobedient, evil, ungodly

A. we are used to thinking of it as “no big deal”

B. “If I disobey my parents, nothing bad will happen, as long as they don’t find out.”

C.

IV. Understand the seriousness of “this is right” from what other things are like disobeying your parents

A. Exodus 20:1-17

1. do not do such things as worship false gods, bow down to idols, murder, steal, commit adultery, and dishonor your parents

B. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: (2) For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, (4) traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, (5) having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!

C. Romans 1:28-31 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting; (29) being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, evil-mindedness; they are whisperers, (30) backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, (31) undiscerning, untrustworthy, unloving, unforgiving, unmerciful;

V. Understand the seriousness of “this is right” from how God pronounces those disobedient to parents deserving of the death penalty

A. Deuteronomy 21:18-21 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, (19) then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. (20) And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' (21) Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

B. Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

C. Proverbs 23:13-14 Do not withhold correction from a child, For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. (14) You shall beat him with a rod, And deliver his soul from hell.

D. Romans 1:32 who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who practice such things are **deserving of death**

E.

F.

- VI. There is such a thing as right and wrong
- VII. What is right and wrong can be known and is known
- VIII. There is a set code of right and wrong
 - A. you have the code within you by nature
 - B. God gave the code verbally
 - 1. He spoke it
 - 2. He wrote it in stone
- IX. The code of right and wrong cannot be changed
 - A. We cannot change what God said
 - B. We cannot change what God wrote in stone
 - C. Our Lord Jesus said it could not change
- X. When you encounter God's law, two things should happen
 - A. You should know yourself a sinner in need of the Savior
 - B. You should turn from disobeying God's law to obeying it
 - 1. not to make yourself righteous
 - 2. but because it is right

- XI. The reason we do something should be that it is right
 - A. "because it's the right thing to do"
 - B. the corollary being that we refrain from doing something because it is not right
 - 1. "that's not right"
 - C. often we just do whatever it seems will feel good
 - 1. at the moment
 - 2. or in the future

for this is right G1342 *diakaios*

This is the word for "righteous."

1 John 3:11-12 For this is the message that you heard from the beginning, that we should love one another, (12) not as Cain who was of the wicked one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his works were **evil [G4190 *poneros*]** and his brother's **righteous [G1342 *diakaios*]**.

Colossians 4:1 Masters, give your bondservants what is just and **fair [G1342 *diakaios*]**, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.

Acts 4:19 But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is **right** in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge.

2 Peter 1:13 Yes, I think it is **right**, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you,

JRY:

We have been conditioned not to understand the seriousness of disobedience to parents.
The bible shows us how serious it is.

- listing disobedience among grievous sins
- prescribing death penalty for it

Giswold:

The home is the primary law-enforcement institution.

The first place a child encounters law is in the home with the parents.

How the child reacts to the church and its laws, the society and its laws, is largely determined by the relationship with the parents. If he does not learn obedience to the parents, he will live in rebellion.

The home is the primary school for the child.

The home is the primary economic institution.

The home is the primary protection.

Ferguson:

The first and chief motive which ought to set us on work to any duty, is not so much the advantage which may redound to us by the practice of it, as the equity and righteousness which is in the thing itself, as being commanded by God, and well-pleasing in his sight; for he enforceth obedience to parents, from the equity of it, before he mention the profit which should accrete unto children by it; "For, this is right," saith he.

honor your father and mother

Ferguson:

The apostle (passing by all other reasons to prove the equity of the former injunction) doth pitch upon one, to wit, the law of God enjoining this duty in the fifth command.

Hence learn, whatever god hath commanded in his word, is most righteous, equitable, and just: for he proveth that it is right for children to obey their parents, because the law of God enjoineth, "Honor thy father and mother."

Borgman

see Micah 7

Micah 7:1-6 Woe is me! For I am like those who gather summer fruits, Like those who glean vintage grapes; There is no cluster to eat Of the first-ripe fruit which my soul desires. (2) The faithful man has perished from the earth, And there is no one upright among men. They all lie in wait for blood; Every man hunts his brother with a net. (3) That they may successfully do evil with both hands-- The prince asks for gifts, The judge seeks a bribe, And the great man utters his evil desire; So they scheme together. (4) The best of them is like a brier; The most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge; The day of your watchman and your punishment comes; Now shall be their perplexity. (5) Do not trust in a friend; Do not put your confidence in a companion; Guard the doors of your mouth From her who lies in your bosom. (6) For son dishonors father, Daughter rises against her mother, Daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law; A man's enemies are the men of his own household.

Paul saw the Law as relevant and authoritative

JRY:

We who are the redeemed by God's grace, as explained in the first half of this letter, with joy turn to the law of the God who saved us!

Any time you hear the Law of God quoted to you, it should have the effect of turning your mind to Christ Jesus!

which is the first commandment with promise

Calvin:

Obedience is the evidence of that honor which children owe to their parents, and is therefore more earnestly enforced.

Spurgeon:

There is the child's duty, but there is the parent's duty, too.

Vincent:

habits of obedience normally lead to a happy, long life (which is undermined by socialist kind of government)

children, this is the best way for you to engage in evangelism

Dykstra:

see Romans 13:8-10

BB Warfield

the 10 C stand in Paul's mind as the summary of the fundamental principles of essential morality, and are, as such, of eternal validity

the promise has changed in the New Covenant

the commandment has changed to reflect the change from old to new covenant

the land was not given to Israel unconditionally Deu 28:58-64 Jer 7:1-15

the land was not permanently holy, but made such by the special presence of God; when the special presence of God left the temple and Jerusalem, the land was not longer holy, and ripe for judgment Ez 10-11

the promise is still in effect, but it has changed

under the new covenant there is no specific holy land John 4:21-23

general, but not absolute, promise; life lived in obedience to parents will generally, but not always, result in a long life

ultimately fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth

note that it is both father and mother

“It’s a wonderful thing to come from the north to the south.”

Slate:

he applies it to us spiritually
he changes the application
in obeying your parents there is protection

Lush:

Paul changes the 5th commandment.
As with the Sabbath commandment, there can be a change to the particulars of a commandment without the whole thing falling to the ground.

JRY:

This verse is helpful in defining what is “right”

- that there is such a thing
- what the source of it is

This verse is a tremendous help in interpreting the bible.

- see the use of one of the commandments
- see the reference to the ten commandments as a unit
- see the adaptation of the promise to life outside Israel
- “this is right” = the 10 commandments say it

If you are in the care of someone other than your parents, that is God’s providence.

See that “parents” equals “mother and father.”

The fact that you don’t obey your parents points you to your need of a savior.

You are tempted to obey other people

- your peers
- the movie makers
- the people a few years older than you

God is in control

do not provoke your children to wrath

Griswold:

- cruel, violent discipline
- unstable discipline
- overprotection
- favoritism
- bitter, cruel words

nurture and admonition

Griswold:

education must be in the hands of Christians

Prelude: Hymn 240 "Great God, What Do I See and Hear?"

Camille: flute

Anna: piano

Noah: trumpet

Hymn 164 "Come and Worship"

Camille: piano

Anna: clarinet

Noah: trumpet

Hymn 192 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Camille: piano

Anna: clarinet

Noah: trumpet

Hymn "In Christ Alone"

Camille: sing

Noah: sing

Anna: piano

Hymn 687 "He Is Coming Again"

Camille: piano

Noah: trumpet

Anna: Sing