

## Children and Parents

[Eph 6:1-4 ESV] 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### I. Intro

- A. On July 30 we began a study of Ephesians 5, We learned:
  - 1. To walk worthy of the calling
  - 2. To walk in Love
  - 3. To Walk in Light
  - 4. To Walk in Wisdom
  - 5. To walk in proper relationship
- B. Now we move on to Ch. 6, the walk continues
  - 1. Children obey parents
  - 2. Parents offer Children every opportunity to prosper in faith
  - 3. Bond-Servants serve as unto the Lord
  - 4. Serve in this world as one protected by the armor of Christ.

### II. Text

- A. Verse 1: Children obey parents
  - 1. This truth is taught in many places:
    - a) [Rom 1:26-32 ESV] 26 For this reason God gave them up to dishonorable passions. For their women exchanged natural relations for those that are contrary to nature; 27 and the men likewise gave up natural relations with women and were consumed with passion for one another, men committing shameless acts with men and receiving in themselves the due penalty for their error. 28 And since they did not see fit to acknowledge God, God gave them up to a debased mind to do what ought not to be done. 29 They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, 31 foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 32 Though they know God's righteous decree that those who practice such things deserve to die, they not only do them but give approval to those who practice them.
    - b) [2Ti 3:1-5 ESV] 1 But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. 2 For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3 heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, 4 treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5 having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.
  - 2. We see the consequences of disobedience, and the foundation that impacts our life forever.
  - 3. This is a foundational truth for a life of faith.
- B. Verses 2-3: Honor your father and mother
  - 1. Repeated throughout scripture
    - a) [Eph 6:1-2 ESV] 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),
    - b) [Exo 20:12 ESV] 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.
    - c) [Deu 27:16 ESV] 16 "'Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother.' And all the people shall say, 'Amen.'

- d) [Pro 20:20 ESV] 20 If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.
  - e) [Mat 15:4-6 ESV] 4 For God commanded, 'Honor your father and your mother,' and, 'Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.' 5 But you say, 'If anyone tells his father or his mother, "What you would have gained from me is given to God," 6 he need not honor his father.' So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.
2. Notice, this truth does not have an expiration date
- C. Verse 4: Parenting...
- 1. Much is said regarding parenting for a believer as well
    - a) [Eph 6:1-4 ESV] 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
    - b) [Col 3:21 ESV] 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
    - c) [Deu 4:9 ESV] 9 "Only take care, and keep your soul diligently, lest you forget the things that your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. Make them known to your children and your children's children--
    - d) [Deu 6:7 ESV] 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.
    - e) [Deu 11:19-21 ESV] 19 You shall teach them to your children, talking of them when you are sitting in your house, and when you are walking by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 20 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, 21 that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land that the LORD swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth.
    - f) [Pro 22:6 ESV] 6 Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it.
    - g) [Pro 23:13 ESV] 13 Do not withhold discipline from a child; if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.
    - h) [Pro 29:15 ESV] 15 The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.
    - i) [Heb 12:7-10 ESV] 7 It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons. For what son is there whom his father does not discipline? 8 If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. 9 Besides this, we have had earthly fathers who disciplined us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they disciplined us for a short time as it seemed best to them, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness.
  - 2. Parent your children with gentleness, grace, and with discipline and a foundation in truth.

### III. Point

- A. Obedience is a practice
  - 1. The walk of faith is taught, and the first teaching comes from parents to children.
  - 2. We raise them to know how to follow Jesus
  - 3. Remember:
    - a) We are not raising "kids," because remaining as kids is not the end result
    - b) We are raising adults, because the ultimate goal is maturity in their walk as adults.

- c) Our goal as parents would be to raise followers of Christ.
- 4. Ultimate blessing of a parent, to have kids that grow to adults that remain servants of Christ...and make a living.
- 5. Teach them to:
  - a) Obey the scripture
  - b) Understand their giftedness
  - c) Recover from mistakes
  - d) Work hard, and smart
  - e) Love well
  - f) Serve long
  - g) Handle winning and losing
  - h) Love the body of Christ, His Church!
- 6. There is much to teach, and maturing in faith takes time and example.
- B. Obedience comes with a promise
  - 1. Honor your parents, so that you find God's blessing
  - 2. When you serve Christ in raising children, you set them up for blessing!
  - 3. We want to bless our kids!
    - a) That doesn't mean that we make life as easy as possible for them, though that is a real battle in our minds
    - b) But it does mean that we teach them to overcome by the power of God.
    - c) We teach them to walk by faith!
  - 4. God isn't messing around regarding this truth, and we know it to be vital to the faith.
  - 5. But what about your situation?
    - a) You may have parents that didn't serve the Lord.
    - b) You may have parents that have not shown you the way to walk with Jesus.
    - c) You may have parents that don't deserve your positive response.
    - d) HONOR them, by God's grace.
    - e) Be an example with the intent to show them Jesus through your actions.
    - f) Trust the Lord!
    - g) Find God's blessing!
- C. Obedience in Parenting
  - 1. Parents, we are to give our kids every opportunity to know Jesus
  - 2. Parents, we are to give our kids proper direction in the Spirit Filled life
  - 3. Parents, we are to be an example, from the earliest of days to the later days, of what it means to be a follower of Christ.
  - 4. Don't provoke your children:
    - a) From my experience, provocation comes when parents do not show a consistent example of faith.
    - b) When parents expect their kids to do something, yet are unwilling to also act properly, there is a conflict in the kids mind.
    - c) These conflicts cause rebellion, rebellion is also a learned trait.
  - 5. Parents, when you mess up...own it, apologize to your kid, repent to the Lord, and move forward in grace.
- IV. Close
  - A. Children: trust the Lord, obey your parents, serve Jesus!
  - B. Parents: trust the Lord, serve Jesus, give your kids a foundation to prosper from!