

Title: Gospel-Centered Hearts and Homes

Passage: Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother - which is the first commandment with a promise - so that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the nurture and instruction of the Lord.

Introduction:

Lord

- great, exalted name

Philippians 2:9-11

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- What does it mean to say Jesus is Lord?
 - He is the rightful king over all, including our own lives. He is seated in heaven and will come again where His reign continues forever

Romans 10:8-10

But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because, *if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord* and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.

"nurture and instruction of the Lord"

- proper context of all families
- Meaning =
 - bring our children in the ultimate cause of Jesus Christ;
 - see all things in relationship to Christ;
 - know that the path to sin is death but the cause of Christ's righteousness will triumph in the end.

father wound

- In a fallen world, earthy fathers have done sinful things or bring negative baggage in one's mind.
- But God brings transformation and redemption!

Philippians 1:6

And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 21:5

And he who was seated on the throne said, "Behold, *I am making all things new.*" Also he said, "Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true."

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Overview: Three questions/Three applications

I. Who is Paul addressing?

II. What is meant by the command

III. What is the meaning of the second part of the command?

IV. Applications

I. WHO IS PAUL ADDRESSING?

Fathers

- have the *leading* responsibility to upbringing of children (not the only, but *leading*)
- Continuation of a man's servant leadership of the home

Ephesians 5:25

Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

- sacrificial, serving leadership of wives, families in the Lord

II. WHAT IS MEANT BY THE COMMAND?

"do not provoke your children to anger"

Anger

- Specific word also translated as "wrath"
- Here, word refers to righteous resentment by a child to the actions/attitude of a father that is inconsistent to his commitments to Christ (hypocrisy)

Matthew 23:27-28

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but within are full of dead people's bones and all uncleanness. So you also outwardly appear righteous to others, but within you are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

- Our calling: Be careful! Live *consistent* in the way you say you believe

III. WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THE SECOND PART OF THE COMMAND?

"but bring them up in the nurture and instruction of the Lord."

Nurture

- meaning = nurturing, kindness, tenderness
- Calvin = "let them be fondly cherished"

Instruction

- Meaning = putting in mind
- systematic purpose of the bringing up of children in the Lord
- relates to heart, mind, and behavior as it relates to God's Word

Key Point: Take them by the hand and lead them in way of the Master

- implies:
 - relationship, closeness
 - lead, not guilt or ignore
 - pointing to the Lord

IV. THREE APPLICATIONS

A. Make a commitment to live and model a Gospel-centered life

- Gospel-centered = Lordship of Christ and the glory of God
- This is done by God's grace
- Book: "The Duties of Parents" (J.C. Ryle)

Colossians 3:17

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ephesians 3:14-17

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love,

B. Teach and model for your children both the importance and great truths of God's Word

- Book: "Leading Little One's to God" (Marian Schooland)
- Book: "Big Truths for Young Hearts" (Bruce Ware)

Deuteronomy 6:7-9

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. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Isaiah 55:10-11

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

C. Pray

- "Good thing to talk to your child about Christ but don't forget to talk to Christ about your child."
- Do it with your wife, meet with another man about your marriage/children.

James 5:16

Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. *The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working.*

Isaiah 59:1

Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save, or His ear dull, that it cannot hear