

Title: Children, Obey and Honor Your Parents

Passage: Ephesians 5:21-24; 6:1-4

Ephesians 5:15-21

Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "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 discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Context:

The Gospel is to transform our relationships. Husband's-wives. Parents-children.

Initial Observations:

Assumes for *entire* church.

- As part of church, you are part of entire family.
- Even if single or empty-nested or without any kids, consider any children (even if not yours biological) as your own for discipleship, nurturing, and caring.
- Find ways to help to raise children around you.

Assumes children are in hearing of God's Word.

- Passage addresses "children" so they were with their parents.
- Encourage consideration of bringing your children to "Big Church"
- As children of all ages learn to sit still for school, encourage to attend and learn to sit still for Sunday service.

Value of children

- Common view: children are nuisance or of little value
- Biblical view: children are great value and precious in God's sight.

Verse 1:

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Children

- encompasses all men and women, even if not under direct authority from their parents
- Continual respect and care should always still occur with sensitive receipt of their position, wisdom, and care
- Question: What is your attitude and heart toward them?

Obey

- Following God's Word and instruction.

Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Verse 2:

"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Honor

- hold parents in highest possible respect
- to ascribe value and worth, to hold in high regard

Exodus 20:12

Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

- key to all relationships in society. First of 10 Commandments that concerns any horizontal relationships.
- respect for parents = outflows respect for roles of authority in other areas (society in general)
- children who respect parents will result a productive society. Otherwise, produce chaotic society.

Honoring doesn't mean obedience when grown out of house but to respond with care and kindness.

- it is an attitude accompanied with actions that say: "You are worthy and are of value. God has sovereignly placed you in my life."
- if you have a difficult relationship with a parent, bring this to the Lord. Forgive them and seek to restore as best able.

Lack of honoring parents on same par as other major sins.

Romans 1:28-32

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. They were filled with all manner of unrighteousness, evil, covetousness, malice. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, maliciousness. They are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, haughty, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, foolish, faithless, heartless, ruthless. 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.

2 Timothy 3:1-2

But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy..

Honoring means to care and financially provide for parents when they are unable to care for themselves.

1 Timothy 5:3-4, 8

Honor widows who are truly widows. But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God...But if anyone does not provide for his relatives, and especially for members of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

Matthew 15:3-6

He answered them, “And why do you break the commandment of God for the sake of your tradition? For God commanded, Honor your father and your mother,’ and, Whoever reviles father or mother must surely die.’ But you say, ‘If anyone tells his father or his mother, “What you would have gained from me is given to God,” he need not honor his father.’ So for the sake of your tradition you have made void the word of God.

Jesus modeled honoring His parents

Luke 2:51 (while under home)

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

John 19:26-27 (when older)

When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

Why should children obey?

- “...for it is right”
- “right” = that which is exactly it should be.
- clear caveat = “in the Lord”
 - when may not be able to honor (VL Source: Chip Ingram, “God’s Boundaries for Abundant Living”):
 - priority of salvation (Mark 10:23-31)
 - priority of service (Luke 9:59-62)
 - priority of marriage (Ephesians 5:31-33)
 - priority of wisdom (Proverbs 9:7-9)

Why important to have a Biblical view of parenting?

- Point to the Gospel
- Why do children disobey and are selfish? Sin.
 - Every child is a sinner. Every child needs salvation.
- Solution?
 - Our Lord and Savior, Jesus!
 - Then have the power to actually reflect Jesus through the Holy Spirit
- Contrast: if fail to enforce obedience = teaching them defiance.
- Common reasons to not enforce obedience:
 - convenience
 - laziness
 - pressure from others (that’s “old” way to do things)

God’s Word is clear to discipline when needed

Proverbs 19:18

Discipline your son, for there is hope;

do not set your heart on putting him to death.

Proverbs 22:15

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child,
but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

Proverbs 23:13

Do not withhold discipline from a child;
if you strike him with a rod, he will not die.

- be thoughtful and caring in discipline, even when meriting physical consequences.
 - full of grace and truth
- not to be done out of anger or frustration or leave marks
- explain why discipline is occurring and walk child through it towards repentance (VL source: “Young Peacemaker”):
 - Admit what did wrong
 - Apologize for choice/behavior
 - Accept consequence for the choice
 - Ask for forgiveness
 - Alter choice/behavior in the future

Verse 3:

“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

- Why Obey? Helpful for child’s life

Contrast examples:

- physical suffering will occur as judgment

1 Samuel 2-3 (Eli’s disobedient sons)

1 Samuel 3:13-14

And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them. Therefore I swear to the house of Eli that the iniquity of Eli’s house shall not be atoned for by sacrifice or offering forever.

Application

Children (in home): obey your parents

- ask God to have grace to obey them

Proverbs 23:22

Listen to your father who gave you life, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

Proverbs 20:20

If one curses his father or his mother, his lamp will be put out in utter darkness.

Children (out of home): honor your parents by affirmation and provision

- honor as to the Lord. Not because they are great but because of their position.

Proverbs 3:27

Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.

Proverbs 23:24

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice; he who fathers a wise son *will be glad in him*.

- if have a difficult parental relationship
 - pray for them
 - forgive them
 - esteem them privately and publicly

Ephesians 3:20-21

Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.