

Ephesians 6:1-4 | 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.

Colossians 3:20-21 | Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Dt 5:16, Eph 6:1-4, Col 3:20-21 | Children Obey Parents

Children this one is for you. The point of the sermon is that God tells you to obey your mom and dad. Don't worry, it is also for your parents because they are also someones children. Last week we talked about how parents are like Kings in the home. They have a responsibility to rule the home and you are subjects in their kingdom. But of course you're more than subjects you are the princes and princesses of the kingdom. Your job is to learn how to be kings and queens of your own one day. So how do you practice being a king? How do you practice being a queen? Well it can't be by dishonoring the king and queen. You have to learn to honor your mother and father and the way you do that is by obeying them.

1. Children

Ephesians 6:1 | Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Okay kids here is the first thing I want you to notice. This section of scripture is a letter written by the apostle Paul to a group of churches and he addresses you directly. He has a section where he speaks directly to children in the church. Look its right there, it begins with him saying, children.

That means a lot of things. The first thing it means is that children are members of the church. That's why we baptize children here. Because you are members of the church when your parents are members of the church. This letter starts with Paul addressing “*The saints who are in Ephesus and are faithful in Christ Jesus*” (Ephesians 1:1). Then he addresses children. That means you children are saints who are faithful in Christ Jesus.

Do you think that the Bible is just for adults? Or that praying to God is just for your parents? Once you get older then you can be a real Christian and start paying attention in church and singing and praying with us? Well The Holy Spirit doesn't think that. He wrote the scriptures and he thinks your full fledged saints, real Christians, faithful in Christ Jesus.

Jesus isn't waiting for you to grow up, he desires for you children to come to him right now. You can trust Jesus Christ now, he will hear your prayers, and you can know God.

2. Obey Your Parents

Ephesians 6:1 | Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

So all the instruction in the bible belongs to you. But when the Bible gives instruction for the stage of life your in, you should really listen up. When you think, how can I be a good Christian? Or what ways can I honor God? It is great to see that God wrote down for us instruction for all the different seasons of life were in. For you children, here is the advice that God gives, *Obey your parents*.

See its just that simple! You should obey your mom and dad.

But did you know that obeying your mom and dad is not just obeying your mom and dad it is actually being Jesus! You see Paul says, obey your parents *in the Lord*. God commands you to obey your mom and dad, so when you obey your mom and dad you are really obeying Jesus. So do you think if your parents command you to sin you should obey? No of course not because your job is to obey your parents *in the Lord*. Your parents should obey God, you should obey your parents.

That means that if you disobey your parents, you are sinning against God. Have you ever thought of that? Disobeying mom and dad is actually disobeying God.

So how do you obey?

1. Do what mom and dad ask you to do.
2. Don't break mom or dad's rules.

For #1 its really easy. When your mom and dad ask you to do something you should do it. For example. But this simple thing can go wrong in all kinds of little ways. For example when mom or dad ask you to do something do you think you should wait and do it later or do it now?

Bring your plates to the kitchen sink. Now or later? Clean your room? Put your shoes on? Brush your teeth? Take a bath? Pick up your toys? Help me bring in groceries? Say sorry to you sister? You should remember the rules. Are you allowed to hit your siblings? Are you allowed to turn the tv on? Are you allowed to lie? Well don't do that stuff. Sometimes you might not understand a rule, or sometimes you might not get why your parents are asking you to do something. That's okay, you don' have to understand everything yet the important thing is that you obey your mom and dad. That is what God asks you to do.

And you know what God doesn't just ask you to do it he promises that when you obey things will be great!

3. The Promise

Ephesians 6:2-3 | “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.”

God doesn't just ask you to obey he tells you that when you obey things are going to be awesome. Paul quotes here from the ten commandments. The fifth commandment to be exact. Honor your father and mother. This commandment has a promise. “That it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

God gives us promises. Earlier this week, we had a long drive as a family. Sometimes when we're all in the car together its hard for our kids to not hit each other. When adults have long car rides it can be hard for them to not hit each other as well but we've had more practice not hitting than kids. So when we got in the car we explained to our kids that if we were kind to each other, if we didn't hit each other, and if we didn't provoke each other, then when we got back home we could stop for ice cream. If the kids obeyed we made a promise that things would go well. (They obeyed and they got ice cream!)

God does the same thing but for your whole life. Do you want your life to go well? Well do you ever worry about what your next grade at school will be like? Or what joining that sports team will be like? Or what it will be like to get older? You don't have to worry about that stuff, God is with you. And if you obey your parents God promises it will go well for you.

Colossians 3:20-21 | Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Want to please God? Children will obey your parents in everything. You know what everything means?

4. How Parents can help kids obey.

Ephesians 6:4 | Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Paul gives instruction to fathers on how to help their children obey. The instruction is to fathers because fathers are the heads of the home. Wives are to submit in everything to their husbands and children are submit in everything to their parents. So by directness of the instruction we can tell that one of the first ways that fathers and mothers can help their children obey is by being united together for the discipline of their children. Mom's are on the side of the dad. And Dad's should recognize that mothers are an extension of their own authority and responsibility. Does a child disobey their mother but comply with their father. This is not good. Father's you should not allow disobedience to the mother.

But this also means that Paul is placing the weight of responsibility for obedient children on the father. Mother's may be spending more time with the children, and will likely know more details about the children's lives. But the father can never act like a victim of the mother's parenting. This is the father's responsibility.

Father's don't provoke your children to anger. In Colossians Paul adds to this instruction "lest they become discouraged." If you provoke your children to anger they will become discouraged. There is a great difference between conquering the will of your child and breaking the spirit of your child.

Conquering the will of your child is helping them gain self-control so that they might conquer their own will and not be tossed about by their fears and passions. But this authority has the capacity to break the spirit of our children so that they might be discouraged. Ways to do this include.

1. Impossible expectations. If you expect to be left alone, or to not be annoyed, or to not be asked for things. You will not have self control. If you expect that you shouldn't have to discipline and instruct. You will simply stand far away and make demands and then punish non-compliance. This is a fools way of parenting. Your kids should feel like they can please you. What you ask of your children should not be far off from them. The law of the Lord is not far off from us, we don't have to go over the sea to get it. It's right here on the page, in our mouths, in our hearts.
2. Clear rules and consequences. You're kids should know what you're asking them to do. My used to tell me to take out the trash like this, "Go to the kitchen, take out the trash bag, go to the garage, put it in the big trash can, close the lid, come back into the kitchen and put a new trash bag in the kitchen trash can." You're kids just got here. They don't know anything. You have to tell them everything. And you need to tell them lots and lots. The same stuff, over and over. We should be like Paul, its no problem for me to write the same thing to you and it is beneficial for you.
3. Be a garden of yes with a few no's. You might have too many rules. God's original position for a flourishing mankind was a garden of yes's with one clear no. He covers most of humanity with ten. Jesus gets that down to two. Lots of disobedience? Maybe too many rules.
4. Make just rulings. Parents are judges and you'll make dozens of rulings a day. You must try and be just. That means listening. Discerning. Then judging. You need Solomonic wisdom to do this. But if you're children feel injustice in your rulings, they will be discouraged and angry.

Lastly, don't be a child manager. Be a leader. You'll have to make plans, and make them clear. Your kids should be caught up in what your doing and where your going. This can include times of rest. But make those clear. You're on a grand adventure with Christ. The great commission, and that means teaching the nations to obey his commands. How can we do that if we don't start in our own homes.