



Colossians 3:20-21 | Leading Children in the Lord

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Why does all the church need to hear a message on parenting and on being a child in the Lord?

Because all in the church are in some way a child, and all the church is responsible and accountable for supporting parents and the biblical home.

FOR ALL THE CHURCH

We all have some child still in us!

A good number are, have been, or may be parents.

Many have other areas of their lives in which principles from this teaching to the church can and should be applied—such as in the church, workplace, teaching environment, or influence with children as extended family or close friends.

This clear admonition to believers with families in the church needs to be understood and supported by all in the church.

1. Every human is a child of God in the sense of Him being our Creator and us His image-bearing creation. “Father” is sometimes used in the OT as Creator and Ruler.
2. Every born-again believer is a child of God in the sense of being adopted into His eternally redeemed family in Christ, and as such believers are expected to live as dear children of God.

3. Every believer is called into gospel-centered, family-like church community.
4. Every child in the home is in need of godly parents to lovingly lead him or her and is called to obey his or her Christlike parents.
5. All believing fathers and mothers are instructed to lovingly lead and train up their children in the Lord.

So, all the church needs the instruction clearly given in these verses of Colossians.

They way I prepared this message is high on application points.

After studying the text and meditating on it, I began writing out implications from the clear commands.

After that, I evaluated and shaped those implications according to Scriptures throughout the Bible.

And, I settled on six statements for each verse and two statements for our conclusion.

Because I have not prepared this message so much as one long argument, if needed, I can skip some areas and come back to it either on a Wednesday or Sunday.

In the future, maybe I will create a Growth Groups course from this.

We'll see.

So, ready to be a better child/parent/Christ-follower/Child of God/Church?

PLEASING OBEDIENCE

Colossians 3:20 KJV

Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.

20 [Subject] **Children**, [Active][Imperative][Present] **obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**

This makes clear several things for the Christian home.

As I mentioned, we will look at six.

Children are directly addressed with the expectation that they be responsive and responsible to the Lord.

[Mark 10:13-16](#)

Mark 10:13-16 KJV

¹³ And they brought young children to him, that he should touch them: and *his* disciples rebuked those that brought *them*.

¹⁴ But when Jesus saw *it*, he was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God.

¹⁵ Verily I say unto you, Whosoever shall not receive the kingdom of God as a little child, he shall not enter therein.

¹⁶ And he took them up in his arms, put *his* hands upon them, and blessed them.

Jesus lifted up children as an example of how each of us must respond to the Gospel if we are to enter the kingdom of God: with humble trust.

Prompt: Ask Spencer to come up and stand next to me on the platform.

How many adults would be too afraid to come up and stand facing everyone on the platform?

Childlike trust is an illustration of the believer's trust in the Lord.

Children are an *example* of humble trust, not the *exception* to it.

Humble trust results in obedience...

Children are commanded by God (with promise) to “obey” their parents in all things because this is pleasing to the Lord.

Like the healthy order within marriage, the order in the home between children and parents is also grounded “in the Lord” and not in culture.

The command for children to obey their parents is not a mere temporary social construct; it is a divine plan for the home and society.

As children no longer learn to obey parents, so goes society and the strength of a nation.

[Exodus 20:12](#); [Ephesians 6:1-3](#)

Exodus 20:12 KJV

¹² Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Ephesians 6:1-3 KJV

Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

Obey—hear, listen to, and do what you are told

Honor—value and pay honors to; give worth; support

Parents are the immediate authority of children still in the home.

—not schools, "professionals," health care, government, or even the church.

[Colossians 3:20](#) “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

This seems to be a simple point, but this may become one of the greatest battles of our day.

More and more, government, schools, and ideological groups are vocally claiming to be more deserving of immediate authority of children than parents.

Like in gender and marriage from last week, this is one of those social areas in which we need to have strong biblical understanding and conviction.

The highest authority there is, YHWH, placed parents as the immediate authority over children in the home, so no government has the right to impose itself into this delegated sphere of parental authority unless it is to exercise its God-ordained authority of protecting a child from *actual* abuse or neglect.

(And teaching our children to think biblically is far from that.)

While the world more and more downplays the role of parents and elevates the role of “professionals,” let’s always remember that God has given this responsibility to parents.

By the Spirit, Scripture, and saints, God also supplies parents with what we need in this lofty task.

When we get into the craziness of our world's thinking, we have to start answering horribly false claims of two-parent homes being a privileged inequity.

While a committed father and mother in the home is a large factor for success in many ways, it is not merely a privilege: **it is a divine prescription.**

It should be expected that it brings good results.

Instead of condemning and replacing parenting, society would be wise to exalt and support homes having a husband and a wife!

I am thankful for wise followers of Christ who understand this and who work to protect the authority of parents in the home.

We have to think critically too.

Schools are *not* the primary educators of our children, and what is taught in schools is *not* the priority content of our children's education—learning to fear the LORD is!

[Proverbs 1:2-9](#)

Proverbs 1:2-9 KJV

² To know wisdom and instruction; To perceive the words of understanding;

³ To receive the instruction of wisdom, Justice, and judgment, and equity;

⁴ To give subtilty to the simple, To the young man knowledge and discretion.

⁵ A wise *man* will hear, and will increase learning; And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels:

⁶ To understand a proverb, and the interpretation; The words of the wise, and

their dark sayings.

⁷ The fear of the LORD *is* the beginning of knowledge: *But* fools despise wisdom and instruction.

⁸ My son, hear the instruction of thy father, And forsake not the law of thy mother:

⁹ For they *shall be* an ornament of grace unto thy head, And chains about thy neck.

Counselors and healthcare providers *can* be a great partnership with parents in investing in our children, but the immediate responsibility has been given by God.

So, we are thankful for educators, policy-makers, lawyers, healthcare providers, and counselors who get this! May God raise up more Christ-followers in these spaces of our society.

But, with authority comes responsibility and accountability.

Believing parents are instructed to teach their children in the way and word of the LORD, praying that their children learn to fear the LORD.

Before churches are instructed to teach children, parents are commanded to do so.

Church and school should come alongside to support parents in their responsibility of training up their children in the way of the Lord.

When we allow churches or education systems to either *subvert* or *substitute* this God-ordained responsibility, we are guilty of dereliction of duty.

[Deuteronomy 4:7-10](#); [Psalm 103:13-18](#)

Deuteronomy 4:7-10 KJV

⁷ For what nation *is there* so great, who *hath* God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God *is* in all *things that* we call upon him *for*?

⁸ And what nation *is there* so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?

⁹ Only take heed to thyself, and keep thy soul diligently, lest thou forget the things which thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart all the days of thy life: but teach them thy sons, and thy sons' sons;

¹⁰ *Specially* the day that thou stoodest before the LORD thy God in Horeb, when the LORD said unto me, Gather me the people together, and I will make them hear my words, that they may learn to fear me all the days that they shall live upon the earth, and *that* they may teach their children.

Far more important than our children learning STEM is our children learning to fear the LORD.

Children who fear the LORD and walk in God's wisdom will have what is more valuable than gold or STEM.

Believing parents, do we really believe this?

It is not an either or matter, but it is a greater than matter.

Emphasize education, but emphasize the Lord first!

Of course, this will draw the hypocritical response from all those who say, "Well, I want my children to figure out their faith on their own."

Impossible. They will just figure it out with the help of someone other than you!

Why would we invest more energy in directing our children into their *livelihood vocation* than to their *life purpose*?

Psalm 103:13–18 KJV

¹³ Like as a father pitieth *his* children, So the LORD pitieth them that fear him.

¹⁴ For he knoweth our frame; He remembereth that we *are* dust.

¹⁵ *As for* man, his days *are* as grass: As a flower of the field, so he flourisheth.

¹⁶ For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; And the place thereof shall know it no more.

¹⁷ But the mercy of the LORD *is* from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, And his righteousness unto children's children;

¹⁸ To such as keep his covenant, And to those that remember his commandments to do them.

Children need to learn the basic practice of obeying instruction, while also being trained to think wisely.

One without the other may be hindering for their adolescent and adult years.

Immediate obedience is a necessary characteristic in all sorts of contexts: classrooms, sports teams, driving, workplace, military, emergency situations, etc.

A child that has not learned to give immediate obedience will greatly struggle with and hinder teams they are a part of in the present and future.

Thinking wisely and critically is similarly vital for the developing young person and his or her protection. This is an aspect of wisely discerning. There

are times when we should not obey, and wise parenting also teaches children how to discern these times.

All authorities have God as their supreme Authority, and it takes critical thinking and discernment to recognize when human authorities are wrong and going against God's authority.

- A young child of course needs to know not to obey a stranger who is calling the child to himself or herself.
- Children need to be taught not to let other kids or adults touch them inappropriately—ever.
- An environment in the home needs to be cultivated in which children are comfortable and encouraged to talk about anything with their parents.
- As children grow older, we should teach them how to use discernment in hearing preaching and teaching, studying the Bible for themselves, learning from teachers in the classroom, use of entertainment and technology, identifying logical fallacies, and thinking through local and world politics—with an emphasis on policies and not identities.

Much of how we can teach discernment is by explaining the *why* behind our instruction.

Especially when they are real young, it is wise to do this *after* expecting immediate obedience without the full explanation.

If a young child expects a full explanation before obeying any command, the child is not being prepared as well for much of their future realities in the world outside the home:

i.e., interactions with store clerks, police officers, firemen, coaches, managers, neighbors, and various authorities.

Instead, giving explanations for why we do what we do *when in is not in the middle of giving an obedience command* is setting up our children to be able to do both—obey and think critically.

[Proverbs 22:6, 15; 13:24; 15:5](#)

Proverbs 22:6 KJV

⁶ Train up a child in the way he should go: And when he is old, he will not depart from it.

“Train up” means to dedicate and point children to the right ways that please the Lord and away from the things that displease Him.

Further on in verse 15, parents are instructed to guide and drive out the natural foolishness that resides in the hearts of children through loving correction and consequences.

[Proverbs 22:15](#) “15 Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; But the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”

[Proverbs 13:24](#) “24 He that spareth his rod hateth his son: But he that loveth him chasteneth him [diligently] betimes.”

The primary guidance I would recommend here is to apply consequences that are **meaningful, short in duration, and restorative**.

If it is not meaningful, it diminishes the authority they need to respect instead of instilling it.

If it is too long in duration, too much time may be given for the child to build up resentment.

If it is not restorative, then it is punishing, not correcting.

Proverbs 15:5 KJV

⁵ A fool despiseth his father’s instruction: But he that regardeth reproof is prudent.

We want to make it easier for our children to regard our reproof.

Both obedience and thinking wisely need to be taught, and the earlier parents can teach their children to both obey and think critically, the better and easier it can be in the future.

Martha and I found that by about age four or five our children were able to have immediate obedience well instilled in them.

This called for many, many hours of training at home. We had long moments of them testing our expectations and us consistently, patiently, and lovingly giving them the communicated consequences.

Toddlers love to test boundaries and authorities!

When our kids were little, we put them in controlled and sometimes fun training environments at home in order to instill obedience in them.

This is what we do with sports, education, and vocation... why would we not with training up the character and personality of our children that they will utilize for the rest of their lives?

Always after each and every form of correction, their repentance was sought and found, and our affection and love was given.

Every time of instruction, disobedience, immediate consequence, repentance, and affirmation was a strong bonding time.

This is actually one of the most stabilizing and nurturing things we can do for our children—train them lovingly within clear expectations and consistent consequences.

Thinking critically takes longer, of course.

You might ask, why would you want to train your children to obey on demand? I'll give four reasons:

1. They are childish children now.

2. Lord willing, they will be adolescents and adults later.
3. God wants us all to learn to obey His authority through authorities He has given us.
4. Parents are accountable to the Lord for how we train up our children.

As childish children, they may run out to a road or off a ledge. They may try to put something in their mouth that is unsafe... *or up their nose and need a shop vac!* They may try to touch something hot.

They will be given instruction by teachers, instructors, and coaches who will all be highly dependent on the training the children receive at home in order to give the children the optimal experience for success.

In public, children instinctively know they have more leverage in their ability to test parental boundaries. As parents, we must know this.

We can meet this reality by preparing with hours of instruction, practice, and training at home to develop their obedience in public.

It takes time! Expect to be humbled in public, but keep the focus on consistent training instead of not being humiliated.

We all need a good humiliation at times, and if the people around are putting on forbearance, patience, and love as instructed in [Colossians 3](#), they will be supportive instead of judgmental.

If people are only judgmental and not supportive don't worry about them. Just keep parenting in home and in public.

As adolescents and adults, your parenting *may* be more enjoyable, reaping the fruits of early training, expectations, and love. I say *may* because each child personally gives account to God for their own actions, and they still may choose to go their own way.

Learning to properly obey authorities as unto the Lord will be a priceless gift you have given your children that *can* bear fruit (and longer life) for years to come.

Now with all this focus on the parent's responsibility and authority, it is also important to note that fathers and mothers both have other spheres of authorities *which God has put over them*.

Parents are the immediate authority, but they are not the only authority.

Children in the home (and womb) are vulnerable and in need of a healthy church and righteous government to intervene in cases of abuse.

Hopefully with this point, we all see another aspect of why it is important that we be a healthy church.

We are in partnership with parents in training up children in the Lord, but we are never replacements for parents.

The church is both a resource to parents and an authority to parents.

The idea is that we help one another obey the Lord.

[Psalm 82:3-4](#); [Jeremiah 22:3](#); [Ephesians 5:11](#); [Matthew 18:4-7](#)

Psalm 82:3-4 KJV

Defend the poor and fatherless: Do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: Rid *them* out of the hand of the wicked.

Jeremiah 22:3 KJV

Thus saith the LORD; Execute ye judgment and righteousness, and deliver the spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor: and do no wrong, do no violence to the stranger, the fatherless, nor the widow, neither shed innocent blood in this place.

Ephesians 5:11 KJV

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*.

Matthew 18:4-7 KJV

⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.

⁵ And whoso shall receive one such little child in my name receiveth me.

⁶ But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.

⁷ Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!

Q: How thankful are you that we have a Heavenly Father Who cares that we obey Him?

HARMFUL PROVOCATION

Colossians 3:21 KJV

Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

21 [Subject]**Fathers**, [Imperative][Active][Present] **provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.**

(Same Greek word as “parents” in [Hebrews 11:23](#), but the emphasis here does seem to be on the fathers.

“23 By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king’s commandment.”)

We must be careful not to unwisely challenge and stir up discouragement, anger, bitterness, and the “loss of heart” in our children.

How might fathers and mothers do this? To answer this, we are going to enter the realm of wisdom and other biblical principles since this passage does not answer that question for us.

Just as the verses on marriage that we looked at last week, this instruction relies heavily on a knowledge of other Scriptural application.

Also, I want to make clear that we will not here address abuse since we already have when considering implications of verse 20.

Needless to say, the provocation condemned in this verse can certainly be a wicked abuse that will bear the judgment of God and should bear the intervention of church and government.

Abuse is always to be swiftly addressed and never covered up.

[Colossians 3:8](#)

Colossians 3:8 KJV

⁸ But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.

Authority
without instruction, affection, affirmation,
and love often provokes rebellious responses in
children.

Ever been provoked to some level of rebellion by an authority like this?

I have. I must admit a sin here. I had a teacher in school that lost her temper all the time in class, so we wrongly pushed her buttons to see **fireworks!**

It was wrong, and I would say looking back that the teacher cultivated this to be a normative response to her expression of authority.

If we always have to remind the follower that we are the leader, something is wrong!

If we have leadership positions, we should prayerful work to cultivate positive, volunteer responses to our leadership.

[Ephesians 6:4](#); [1 Thessalonians 2:7-8](#)

Ephesians 6:4 KJV

⁴ And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 KJV

But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.

Clear, trustworthy expectations and consequences, along with acts of mercy, cultivate an optimal environment for healthy, trusting relationships.

Strangely, the very thing we often rebel we also want—truth and stability.

School structure

Military structure with strong units

The alternative creates confusion, misunderstanding, and disappointments.

Notice the fatherly leadership from God and the childlike responsiveness of the psalmist in these two strophes of [Psalm 119](#).

[Psalm 119:65-80](#)

Psalm 119:65–80 KJV

⁶⁵ TETH. Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O LORD, according unto thy word.

⁶⁶ Teach me good judgment and knowledge: For I have believed thy commandments.

⁶⁷ Before I was afflicted I went astray: But now have I kept thy word.

⁶⁸ Thou *art* good, and doest good; teach me thy statutes.

⁶⁹ The proud have forged a lie against me: *But* I will keep thy precepts with *my* whole heart.

⁷⁰ Their heart is as fat as grease; *But* I delight in thy law.

⁷¹ *It is* good for me that I have been afflicted; That I might learn thy statutes.

⁷² The law of thy mouth *is* better unto me Than thousands of gold and silver.

⁷³ JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: Give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

⁷⁴ They that fear thee will be glad when they see me; Because I have hoped in thy word.

⁷⁵ I know, O LORD, that thy judgments *are* right, And *that* thou in faithfulness hast afflicted me.

⁷⁶ Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, According to thy word unto thy servant.

⁷⁷ Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live: For thy law *is* my delight.

⁷⁸ Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause: *But* I will meditate in thy precepts.

⁷⁹ Let those that fear thee turn unto me, And those that have known thy testimonies.

⁸⁰ Let my heart be sound in thy statutes; That I be not ashamed.

God's trustworthy expectations (word) gave confidence to the psalmist, even when it brought temporary moments of "affliction."

Speaking of clear instruction...

Irrational, uncontrolled, and angry responses toward children without confessing and repenting from such behavior may lead to resentment and distrust.

This is a very important principle.

These commands we have in Colossians are to imperfect people, though they have the Spirit.

Parents and authorities in general will make small and big mistakes. We will sin.

What should we do about that?

Confess, repent, and reconcile!

Covering sin or flaws only leads to justifying them, and it usually leads to passing them on to others through either exposure or indoctrination.

We must humbly confess, even before our children and “subordinates.”

[Proverbs 11:2](#); [12:16-18](#); [James 5:16](#)

Proverbs 11:2 KJV

When pride cometh, then cometh shame: But with the lowly is wisdom.

Proverbs 12:16–18 KJV

¹⁶ A fool’s wrath is presently known: But a prudent *man* covereth shame.

¹⁷ *He that* speaketh truth sheweth forth righteousness: But a false witness deceit.

¹⁸ There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: But the tongue of the wise *is* health.

James 5:16 KJV

¹⁶ Confess *your* faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

A lack of unity in marriage seen by children through parenting often encourages children to pick sides and manipulate one or both parents.

It is more important to have a unified agreement that to do everything right each time with children.

Less optimal ways in the home can get smoothed out over time, but disunity in the home promotes instability, distrust, and more disunity.

[Colossians 3:18-21](#); [Proverbs 6:20-23](#)

Colossians 3:18–21 KJV

¹⁸ Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. ¹⁹ Husbands, love *your* wives, and be not bitter against them. ²⁰ Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

Proverbs 6:20–23 KJV

²⁰ My son, keep thy father's commandment, And forsake not the law of thy mother: ²¹ Bind them continually upon thine heart, *And* tie them about thy neck. ²² When thou goest, it shall lead thee; When thou sleepest, it shall keep thee; And *when* thou awakest, it shall talk with thee. ²³ For the commandment *is* a lamp; and the law *is* light; And reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life:

Notice the unity implied between the father's commandment and the mother's law.

A vacuum of loving, parental authority can provoke children into resentfully seeking to fill the void with alternative sources—good or bad.

The combination of love and authority is something we all inherently crave. It is how God made us.

We all want both, even though sin tempts us to rebel against it at the same time.

ILL:

Coach

Strong teacher or mentor

Good supervisor or boss

Inspirational military leader

Compelling campaign leader

Motivational gang leader

[Proverbs 3:11-12](#); [29:15-18](#)

Proverbs 3:11-12 KJV

My son, despise not the chastening of the LORD; Neither be weary of his correction: For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; Even as a father the son *in whom* he delighteth.

Proverbs 29:15-18 KJV

The rod and reproof give wisdom: But a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame. When the wicked are multiplied, transgression increaseth: But the righteous shall see their fall. Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; Yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. Where *there is* no vision, the people perish: But he that keepeth the law, happy *is* he.

Q: What about our Heavenly Father's leadership compels you to both trust and fear Him in a healthy way?

All this talk on parenting is based upon being followers of God and obeying His Fatherly leadership over our lives.

HEAVENLY FAMILY

Married or single, parents or not, all in the church are called to both support and mirror many of the principles found in God's instruction to the family.

Jesus put it this way when emphasizing the priority of the Heavenly Kingdom and family.

[Matthew 12:47-50](#); [John 6:40](#); [Ephesians 5:1-2](#)

Matthew 12:47-50 KJV

Then one said unto him, Behold, thy mother and thy brethren stand without, desiring to speak with thee. But he answered and said unto him that told him, Who is my mother? and who are my brethren? And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

All who do the will of the Father by faith are His children and Christ's siblings.

None of Christ's followers are to be without family.

But, not all do the will of the Father. Most actually don't.

We all have gone against the Father's will, and there is only one way to live in the Father's will.

John 6:40 KJV

⁴⁰ And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

These are those who are in the eternal, Heavenly Family.

Are you among them?

Are you in God's heavenly family?

If not, repent from your sin and trust in Jesus as your risen Savior and Lord to be saved into God's family.

Without Christ, you will face the consequences of your sin on your own before God.

If you are in Christ by faith, you are united to His death and resurrection with your sins having been forgiven.

And, you are called into the life of Jesus.

He has given you His Spirit to make you to represent Him and His Father among His family, the church, to a world in need of Christ.

Ephesians 5:1-2 KJV

Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children; And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour.

Believing families are called to reflect the heavenly family to which they belong—now expressed on earth in churches.

We have a perfect Heavenly Father, from Whom all these biblical principles come. He is our perfect Father.

Our Father has a perfect, eternal Son through Whom He is adopting sinners into the Son's inheritance.

Jesus the Son perfectly obeyed the Father on our behalf.

He gave His life a ransom for our sin, resurrected as the supreme Son, and sent His Spirit to live in His likeness.

All Who have the Spirit of Christ in them are enabled to obey the Father and love their brothers and sisters in Christ.

So being called into the family of God, adds new dimensions to all our relationships—the Gospel dimension.

Believers, we are told in Hebrew 12 that we are as those who have no Father if we can live however we want without receiving correction and discipline from our Heavenly Father.

Wives & Husbands, you are married to your eternal brother or sister who is called rule and reign with you in Christ.

Children, you are learning to obey your Heavenly Father through the Christlike authority of your parents, who will one day reign with Christ *alongside* you.

Fathers and Mothers, you are *shaping the image your children have of God* in how you lead your children, and your children are also your siblings in Christ.

Brothers & sisters, married & single, widowed & newlyweds, adults, youth, & children: we are all family in Christ with one Father, one Lord, and one Spirit.

The Gospel should both transform and extend our idea of family.

Q: How does the gospel shape the way you view your family and church?

Colossians 3:20–21 KJV

Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.