

- I) V20-21 INTRO: **Children** obey your parents **in all things** for this is well pleasing to Him
In the first 2 chapters, Paul outlined **who** Jesus is and our **relationship** to Him
WHY DID HE DO THIS
- II) He did this to lay a strong spiritual foundation for us as believers
We need to know what He desires for us so we can live in a way that pleases Him
Col 1:9-10 For this reason we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; that you may walk worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing Him, being fruitful in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God
- III) After laying this foundation he went on to command believers to pursue Jesus
As Christians, they belong to a different kingdom and now have new priorities
Mt 6:33 But **seek first his kingdom** and his **righteousness**, and all these things will be given to you as well.
- IV) This new understanding of life and **its priorities** changed the way that they lived
As believers, they lived with the knowledge that they had been rescued
Col 1:13 For he has rescued us from the dominion of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of the Son He loves
- V) They were no longer under the domination of the world, but were now free
Ro 6:14 **For sin** shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, **but under grace**
- VI) This **new way of living** is fueled by our love for the Lord and desire to be with Him
We love God above all else, and order our lives under this one thing
Ps 27:4 The **one thing** I ask of the LORD— **the thing I seek most**— is to live in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, delighting in the LORD's perfections and meditating in his Temple.
- VII) This is called being **a Christian**
Phil 3:7-9 Whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. What is more, I consider **everything a loss** compared to the surpassing greatness of **knowing Christ** Jesus my Lord, for whose sake **I have lost all things**. I consider them **rubbish** that I may gain Christ and be **found in Him** not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law but that which is through **faith in Christ**, the righteousness that comes from God and is by faith

- I) This attitude of **seeking the kingdom first** sets the foundation for everything
Paul has made it clear that it affects how you see yourself as a believer
How you **respond** to teachers and their teachings
How you **view the troubles** you endure
And how you relate to your **church family** and other believers in general
- II) In Ch 3:12-17 he outlined **how** the Christian community was **to live**
HE THEN WROTE ABOUT THE FAMILY
- III) In V18-19 he wrote of how this way of life is to work in our marriage
He gave instructions to wives, and then gave instructions to husbands
HE NOW WRITES TO CHILDREN
- IV) V20 **Children** obey your parents in all things for this is well pleasing to the Lord
Children are *commanded* to obey their parents
- V) This is something that **our society** needs to be reminded of
It seems that a good amount of parents are actually obedient **to their children**
- VI) Obviously as children age we give them more freedom to make decisions
As they are younger it is the parents who set the limits to their behavior
- VII) When my children were younger we decided various things for them
When they went to bed, who they hung around with, what they ate, what they wore, where they were allowed to go, household chores and obviously, their church
- VIII) We did this because they weren't mature enough to make **good decisions**
There are still many things that have age requirements
Drivers licenses, tattoos, voting, passports, hours worked, alcohol, cigarettes, flying alone, age for marriage, piercings and age to enter the military without consent
- IX) These are **requirements** because children can make poor decisions
This is where godly fathers and mothers can make such a great difference
WHY SHOULD CHILDREN OBEY PARENTS?
- X) First, because by nature, we know **this is right**
Eph 6:1-3 Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, **for this is right.** Honor your father and mother--which is the first commandment with a promise--that it may go well with you and **that you may enjoy long life on the earth.**
This is right (proper): this is proper according to natural relations

- I) The **command** Paul refers to bridges the first four of God's **ten commandments**
- II) The first four commandments specifically speak of man's obligations **to God**
No other gods, no idols, do not take His name in vain, keep the Sabbath
- III) The following six commands speak of man's obligations to **other men**
Ex 20:12 Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you.
- IV) Man's obligations to other men **begin** with honoring your father and mother
Honor: Esteem, value, great respect
- V) Children, especially **young children** owe their parents obedience, revealing **honor**
WHY IS THIS TRUE
- VI) A **godly** parent's advice can save a child great **heartache** and unnecessary **pain**
Over our lifetimes we've gained wisdom that can help them avoid mistakes
Job 12:12 Is not **wisdom** found among the aged? Does not **long life** bring understanding?
- VII) They are protected and their character developed through their obedience
By obeying, their lives can be blessed and even prolonged
Pr 3:1-2 My son, do not forget my law, but let your heart **keep my commands**; for **length of days** and **long life** and **peace** they will add to you.
- VIII) **Length of days** refers to an extension of life (number of days)
Long life speaks of the reward of God's favor in your life
Peace speaks of the quality of inward tranquility continuing to old age
WHEN YOUR CHILDREN ARE YOUNG
- IX) Their friends or some other adult may become their surrogate parents
This can be true when either or both of the parents are **uninvolved** in their lives
- X) Obviously parents must make efforts to be available to their children
Neglecting the child ultimately reaps sad, sometimes tragic, results
Pr 29:15 The rod and rebuke give wisdom, But **a child left to himself** brings shame to his mother.
- XI) When we are young, our friends are more important to us than our own parents

- I) Friends will not always counsel you to do the right thing in your time of temptation
Go ahead and drink! Go ahead, take the car! Go ahead and sleep with them!
In the end, I learned that my friends did not love me like my parents did

THE FACT IS

- II) Responsible, caring Christian parents desire their kids to be blessed
This is why we remember that we are not their **friends**, we are their **parents**

THEY NEED PARENTS

- III) They need **role models** and **teachers** to help them develop **faith** and **morals**
They need **rule makers** to help them establish personal boundaries
They need **authority** in their lives, to teach them how to respond to authority
They need **accountability**, and someone who helps to enforce discipline
They need someone **who loves them** enough to help **shape them** into maturity
They need someone who will make **the tough decision** they won't want to make
They need someone who loves them **for who they are**, not what they do for them

ILLUSTRATION

- IV) I knew someone who got high with his parents
I **said** it was cool, but inside I was blessed my parents didn't do such a thing
- V) **Notice** that Paul commands children to obey their parents **in the Lord**
Obedience **to parents** is seen as a fruit of a child's relationship **to God**
The fact is, obeying and honoring **parents** is to **honor** and **obey God**
- VI) **Children** reveal honor to their parents through **obedience**
Adults reveal **honor** by love, respect, concern and help when they need it
- VII) Our **parents** tried to take care of **us** when we were children
As their **children**, we try to care for them when they are **aged**
This is what Ex 20:12 refers to when we are commanded to **honor** our parents
- VIII) The fact is: **Obedience** opens children up to God's blessings
By obeying their parents they have the greatest chance of living a blessed life
Pr 7:1-3 My son keep my words and treasure my commands within you. Keep my commands **and live**, and my law as the apple of your eye. Bind them on your fingers; Write them on the tablet of your heart.
- IX) **Obviously**: Bringing children to faith in Christ is of utmost importance
It is a **spiritual task** and it is filled with spiritual warfare

- I) It isn't easy and there is no guarantee of success
Our children have **sin natures**, and by nature are prone to rebellion
- II) This makes it all the more difficult to impart the faith of Christ to them
Pr 22:15 Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far away.
- III) This is why our greatest effort should be in raising them **in the Lord**
- IV) We were handed the baton of faith from faithful witnesses who shared with us
We are especially responsible to share this knowledge of God with our **children**
Ps 78:4 We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about His power and his mighty wonders
- V) Obviously: Bringing children to faith in Christ is of utmost importance
This should be our highest priority
- VI) I read that out of 1.1 million HS athletes roughly 853 players make the pros yearly
That breaks down to 0.00075%
NCAA Division 1 athletes: 1.2% basketball players make it to the pros
- VII) The per centage of athletes making to the pros is very low
The per centage of our children standing before God **is 100%**
- VIII) Some say their children will decide *their own faith* when they are older
This is unwise because parents have the responsibility of nurturing their faith
- IX) We are their first and most basic teachers
We parents are to take responsibility to ingrain faith in Jesus
Dt 4:9-10 Be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. *Teach them to your children and to their children* after them. Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when he said to me, "Assemble the people before me to hear my words so that they may learn to revere me as long as they live in the land and may teach **them to their children**

- I) We parents are to carefully raise our kids to love the Lord
Without spiritual direction they will inevitably choose the wrong path
Pr 14:12 There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death
- II) This is why parents are given command to raise their children **in the Lord**
It is **our responsibility** to **train up** our children in the Christian faith
It is not the job of the church, schools, friends, childcare or our family members
- III) We parents need to adopt the values of the Kingdom, and not the World
We need proper priorities and to hold fast consistently to them over a lifetime:
As **we** grow in maturity, our kids will be influenced to their own maturity
- IV) Our priorities must be built on our faith and how we can bring our kids to faith
This requires time, sacrifice, prayer and careful education in God's ways (Mt 6:33)
- V) We need to once again realize how important it is to raise our kids to love Jesus
They grow quickly: We need to give them attention and training while we have time
- VI) Millions are being neglected, and many are actually raising themselves
Dropped off at movie theaters late at night, at Malls or left at stranger's homes
- VII) The result is a growing rebellion in every facet of our society
Pr 30:11-12 There is a generation that curses its father, and does not bless its mother. There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, yet is not washed from its filthiness.
I believe we are living in a time when this generation is recognizable
- VIII) Over fifty years ago God began a move called the **Jesus Revolution**
Many young people came to the Lord and lives were radically changed
- IX) Sadly it seems obvious that many failed to pass on this knowledge **to their children**
Judges 2:7 The people served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua who had seen all the great works of the Lord which He had done for Israel.
V10 When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation *arose after* them who did not know the Lord nor the work which He had done for Israel.

- I) I want to encourage parents to do our best to teach our children
As a parent I did my best to teach my children life skills and spiritual lessons
- II) Their part was for them to yield to the instruction with humility
WHICH BRINGS US TO OUR STUDY
- III) V21 **Fathers**, do not provoke your children lest they become discouraged
Paul speaks to fathers because they are the natural representatives of authority
Some think fathers are unnecessary
WHAT DO FATHERS DO
- IV) Fathers normally have less gentle ways of caring for their kids
We can be more direct, more impatient, less understanding and less tender
- V) This can be especially true with our sons
My son gets hit by a pitch: I yell **shake it off!**
We can play rougher, encourage competition, stress playing fair, and teach courage, encourage chance taking, and personal emphasize discipline
- VI) We can be less physically affectionate, and less verbal then our wives
I read that women talk almost three times as much as men, with the average woman chalking up 20,000 words in a day - 13,000 more than the average man.
- VII) Because we are different then mothers, we are commanded not to **provoke** our kids
This speaks of irritating them with constant faultfinding and harsh commands
It speaks of bullying them with constant stupid orders, discouraging them
- VIII) The result of this treatment is **discouragement** to the child
They can never please us and eventually lose hope of doing so
They grow up never hearing the words **good job, well done, I'm proud of you**
- IX) QUOTE: He who always finds fault with a child; who is never satisfied with what he does; who scolds and complains, eventually breaks his spirit, and destroys in the delicate texture of his soul all desire of doing well. The broken child soon gives up every effort to please. He becomes sullen and indifferent since all that he does meets with the same reception from the parent.
- X) Some today argue that children do not need a father

- I) In 2008, Prop 8 was a constitutional ban on same sex marriage
It was passed by California voters, but overturned by a federal judge
- II) The Federal judge who overturned prop 8 was a homosexual
In his decision he wrote: Children **do not need** to be raised by a male parent and a female parent to be well-adjusted, and having both a male and a female parent **does not** increase the likelihood that a child will be well adjusted...Indeed, **the evidence shows** beyond **any doubt** that parents' genders **are irrelevant** to children's developmental outcomes.
- III) With the swoop of a pen, he completely threw away thousands of years of history
- IV) Obviously father's are needed and valued
With this in mind, Paul tells fathers not to discourage their children
- V) In a society where the father's word was law, this was an entirely new concept
The parent/child relationship is not a one sided: the child's feelings are considered
- VI) He gave more insight in Ephesians
Eph 6:4 Fathers do not **provoke** your children to wrath, but **bring them up** in the training and admonition of the Lord
- VII) Love your children, and treat them with kindness and gentleness
Correct your children with an affectionate concern, not anger
- VIII) *Bring them up* in the *training* and the *admonition* of the Lord
- IX) **Bring up**: Speaks of **nourishing** our children through encouragement
Training: Instruction, which aims at increasing virtue (moral excellence)
Admonition: Appealing to their understanding or exhorting them (Lectures!)
- X) Nourish and discipline them in the love of Jesus, using His word as your guideline
Our *instructions* and *examples* are to encourage them to godly lives
- XI) Fathers, do not break the spirit of your child, but direct or to shape it
Pr 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it

- I) **Train:** Provoke them in a direction that is conformed to their *temperament* and *gifts*
- II) This produced a Worldview built on God's Word, establishing clear understanding
Pr 4:11-13 I have taught you in the way of wisdom; I have led you in right paths.
When you walk, your steps will not be hindered, and when you run, you will not stumble.
Take firm hold of instruction, do not let go; Keep her, for she is your life.
- III) What can we do to encourage our children to follow the Lord
First: Get married before you have children and do your best to *remain married*
Second: Decide that you will serve the Lord and raise your children to do so, also
- IV) Allow me to close with a few suggestions for fathers, to help you train your kids
- V) Love your wife openly and treat her with respect and tenderness
Love your children openly: tell them you love them and show them affection
Understand that you are their dad, not their pal or buddy
Spend time with them, because **quantity** of time is what they need
Show them that working hard provides for them, and model responsibility
Discipline them, not harshly and angrily, but firmly and seriously
Encourage them to study, and to do well in school
Teach them to take personal responsibility for their actions, and to be humble
Encourage them to love God, His word, and His people: do devotions with them
Accept their personalities, talents, and gifts (poets and artists are needed!)
Study them, getting to know who they are and what they desire in life
Pray with them, modeling what a godly father actually looks like
- VI) Your example lasts their lifetime
Treat your home as if it is their church and you are their pastor
Dt 6:4-9 Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! You shall love
the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.
And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach
them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when
you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 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.
- VII) As for me and my house, we shall serve the Lord