

FAMILY: God's Way

How to Make Your Parents Proud

Ephesians 6:1-3

Pastor Jason Dennett's Notes

NKJV - *"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother,' which is the first commandment with promise: 'that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.'"*

NVI - *"Hijos, obedezcan en el Señor a sus padres, porque esto es justo. 'Honra a tu padre y a tu madre - que es el primer mandamiento con promesa - para que te vaya bien y disfrutes de una larga vida en la tierra.'"*

AMP - *"CHILDREN, OBEY your parents in the Lord [as His representatives], for this is just and right. Honor (esteem and value as precious) your father and your mother—this is the first commandment with a promise. That all may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."*

Paul's great **THEOLOGY** is now working itself out **PRACTICALLY**.

- Your **Beliefs??** ---> Your **Behavior??**
- Your **Attitudes** ---> Your **Actions??**
- Your **Doctrines** ---> Your **Deeds??**

Our Christianity should make a difference in **my home**, in **my marriage**, in **my office**, in **my community!**

- "How should our Christian **IDENTITY** look in the different **RELATIONSHIPS** of our lives?"
- **2 Cor 5:17** - "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."

I. God's DECLARATION to children.

II. God's EXPLANATION to children.

III. God's MOTIVATION to children.

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

- **AMP** - *"CHILDREN, OBEY your parents in the Lord [as His representatives], for this is just and right."*
- **"10 Property Laws of a Toddler"** - 1. If I like it, **it's mine**. 2. If its in my hand, **it's mine**. 3. If I can take it from you, **it's mine**. 4. If I had it a little while ago, **it's mine**. 5. If **it's mine**, it must never appear to be

yours in any way. 6. If I am building something, all of the pieces are mine. 7. If it looks like it's mine, it's mine. 8. If I saw it first, it's mine. 9. If you are playing with something and you put it down, it automatically becomes mine. 10. If it's broken, it's yours!!

"There was a 16 year old who wanted to drive the family car..."

37% of Americans have children under 18 years of age living at home...

Time Spent: School-16% ; Church-1% ; Home-83%

I. God's **DECLARATION** to children.

- **"Children...obey your parents..Honor your father and mother.."**
- **3 important Greek words to take note of:**
 - **"teknon"** - This is the **AUDIENCE**. A CHILD is the Greek word **"teknon"** is offspring or a child still in the care/household of their parents (regardless of age). - Paul has in mind children who are still in their parents' household and under their authority.
 - **This obedience should not only be in some areas, and not in others.** The authority of a child's parents is to be respected and obeyed in all things, while under their care, and under their roof.
Col 3:20 - "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord."
 - **"hypakouo"** - This is the **ACTION**. To OBEY is the Greek word **"hypakouo"** literally means to respond to the knocking on the door, to listen to who it is (like a butler). Paul is saying that children should be attentive and respond to the instructions of their parents, like a butler does to his boss.
Of course, this not only means that children have the responsibility to obey, but parents have the responsibility to teach their children obedience – one of the most important jobs for a parent. We don't need to teach our children how to disobey because they have each inherited an inclination to sin from Adam – but obedience must be taught.
In a recent survey, ING Direct learned that many parents are uncomfortable talking to their children about money. In fact, 39 percent of parents are more prepared to talk about alcohol and drugs with their children than about money and finance; 29 percent would rather talk about dating and sex. Perhaps most surprising is that 95 percent believe financial education should be taught in school. If parents want a Christian worldview for their children, they need to be sure to begin teaching it to them FIRST at home!
 - **"timaos"** - This is the **ATTITUDE**. To RESPECT is the Greek

word "**timao**" literally means to honor and respect your father and mother in your attitude, and general manner of being. Even when a child is grown and out of his parents' household, he is no longer under the same obligation of obedience, but the obligation to honor your father and mother remains.

Mark 7:5-13 - *"So the Pharisees and teachers of religious law asked him, "Why don't your disciples follow our age-old tradition? They eat without first performing the hand-washing ceremony." Jesus replied, "You hypocrites! Isaiah was right when he prophesied about you, for he wrote, 'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.' For you ignore God's law and substitute your own tradition." Then he said, "You skillfully sidestep God's law in order to hold on to your own tradition. For instance, Moses gave you this law from God: 'Honor your father and mother,'* and 'Anyone who speaks disrespectfully of father or mother must be put to death.' But you say it is all right for people to say to their parents, 'Sorry, I can't help you. For I have vowed to give to God what I would have given to you.' In this way, you let them disregard their needy parents. And so you cancel the word of God in order to hand down your own tradition. And this is only one example among many others."*

II. God's *EXPLANATION* to children.

• **"..in the Lord, for this is right."**

- **REASON #1 - Its WORSHIPFUL.** **Christians should obey as part of their Christian DUTY - as an act of worship towards Jesus!** As Paul says "..in the Lord.." it tells us that this is simply what is proper and right for children who claim to know Christ - to obey and respect their parents as an expression of their love and worship of Jesus Christ. Just as the husband is commanded to "love", and the wife is commanded to "submit" as their worshipful response, so the children are commanded to "obey". This is the summary expression of their devotion to Jesus, while in the home of their parents.
 - *We could say that if children consistently choose to disobey their parents, they are not just failing as children, but also as Christians!*
 - **PERFECT EXAMPLE: JESUS!!** Luke 2:51 **AMP** - *"And He went down with them and came to Nazareth and was [habitually] obedient to them.."*
- **REASON #2 - Its PRACTICAL.** **When a child obeys and respects his parents AUTHORITY, he's learning to respect**

God's order of authority in other areas of life.

A child needs to learn to respect and obey the authorities that God places in their lives at School; their Employment; out in general Society; in human Government...

MOST IMPORTANTLY: *with the GOD, their Creator and Lord!! Learning obedience to authority, and respect for human authority prepares the children to be able to OBEY and SUBMIT to the authority of their Heavenly Father....and one day go to Heaven!!*

Researchers at Yale University found that babies as young as three months can actually distinguish good from evil.

*Research conducted at Yale's Infant Cognition Center contradicts a common belief that children are born as blank slates, and learn right and wrong from watching other people. The study used puppets to demonstrate good and bad behavior and allowed the children to choose which puppet they wanted to play with afterward. In one case, a puppet struggles to open a box, and another puppet helps it open the case. In the other example, while the puppet struggles with the box, a second puppet comes along and slams the box shut again. More than 80 percent of the time, babies selected the "good" puppet when presented with a choice between the good one and the bad one. Paul Bloom, an author and professor who took part in the study said, "**Humans are born with a hard-wired morality, a sense of good and evil is bred in the bone. We are naturally moral beings, but our environment can enhance—or degrade—this innate moral sense.**"*

Biblical Parenting = "Discipleship" (It's not EASY, but it is SIMPLE!) --> (Mt 28:18-20)

Deut 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."

REASON #3 - Its SPIRITUAL. *The idea of an order of authority, and submission to authority are so important to God, because they are part of His very Being!*

The One True GOD is a Trinity - the First Person of the Trinity is God, the Father; the Second Person of the Trinity is God, the Son; the third Person is God, the Holy Spirit. The Father exercises authority over the Son, and the Son submits to the Father's authority - and this is in the very nature and being of God! Inherent in those titles is a relationship of authority, and even a submission to authority.

Matt 26:39 - *"He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, "O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will."*

*As Christians, children or adults, our failure to **obey** Biblical authority, and our failure to **submit** to Biblical authority, isn't just wrong and sad - it sins against the very character and nature of God Himself!!*

1 Sam 15:23 - *"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry."*

III. God's *MOTIVATION* to children.

"..which is the first commandment with promise: "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

- Christians have normally divided the Ten Commandments into the first four (directed towards God) and the last six (directed towards their fellow man). But the Jews divided the commandments in two sets of five, seeing the law to honor your father and mother **more as a duty towards God** than a duty towards man.
- Paul reinforced this idea with a reference to the second giving of the **10 commandments**, where God promised to bless the obedient child. (**10 Found? 10 Memorize?**)
 - **Deut 5:16** NKJV - *"Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you."*

- Though it may sound strange to us, the "promise of long life" would make sense to the Jewish people, for they knew the penalty the Old Testament commanded for children, who consistently and openly defied their parents through rebellion and disobedience:

Deut 21:18-21 NLT - *"Suppose a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or mother, even though they discipline him. 19 In such a case, the father and mother must take the son to the elders as they hold court at the town gate. 20 The parents must say to the elders, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious and refuses to obey. He is a glutton and a drunkard.' 21 Then all the men of his town must stone him to death. In this way, you will purge this evil from among you, and all Israel will hear about it and be afraid."*

- Of course, this is the Old Testament, and was meant only for the Jewish people before Christ. However, there is still the promise of a good and long life, as children obey their parents instructions:

"Don't play with sharp objects!"

"Don't lie to people, always tell the truth!"

"Don't steal from people, taking what isn't yours!"

"Don't become a promiscuous person or a fornicator!"

- *"Love people and serve them like Jesus!"*
- *"Learn to love reading the Word of God, and fol*
- *"Discover your gifts and invest them for the Lord!"*
- *"Honor the Lord in all that you do, regardless of others!"*

APPLICATION QUESTIONS:

- As a **CHILD**, are you living out your **IDENTITY** as a Christian, and showing willing obedience and honor to your parents in all things?
 - If you are still a **TEKNON** living at home, are you **RELATING** properly to your mother and father?
 - If you've long left the home of you father and mother, do you still **RESPECT** and **HONOR** them? Do you try to have a good relationship with them, and express thanks for all that they've done for you?
 - As a **PARENT**, how focused are you on **DISCIPLINE** and training your children? Have you brought your children to Jesus Christ in salvation? Are you actively helping them draw closer to Christ?
- As a **PARENT**, are you being **INTENTIONAL**, using a laid out plan with your spouse, to develop them, grow them, and mold them into the people God has called them to be?