

## Living Under the Lordship of Christ Household Principles – Parents and Children

Colossians 3:20-21

Paul offered the Colossians, and for that matter offers to us, a family model that was/is different than what his peers in the first century were used to.

### Instruction to Children

#### Understanding the instruction:

*Children* – those of an age where they are with in the home and under the direct authority of parents.

*Parents* – those who birthed and/or are personally responsible for children

*Obey* – to act in a way consistent with the direction and will of one in authority.

*In everything* – outlines the scope of obedience

For it pleases the Lord – Paul is linking us to the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment -- “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.”

#### Three Points:

1. Just as Paul reminded slaves and masters that they were ultimately under God’s authority, so also, he wants children to understand they are responsible to an authority beyond that of parents.
2. The instruction given to children addresses the need to confront the sin nature from an early age.
3. There is also the thought that parents are to take a position of authority over their children.

#### *Complicating a Parents Job*

### Instruction Given to Fathers

Fathers are warned about provoking their children.

The result of provoking is children may become:

■ Discouraged

■ Angry

How doe we provoke our children?

Essentially Paul has outlined basic remedy that underpins how parents and children are to relate.

■ Children obey

■ Parents treat appropriately

■ Parents discipline and train

#### Four Challenges:

Embrace the fact you have a God given authority in your home.

Expect your children to obey by living in obedience to God (setting the example) and through teaching them to obey.

Explore what is going on in the culture – be informed so you can inform your kids.

Choose to live under the authority of Christ as model of what God wants and expects of your child.