



## **Ephesians 6:1-4, Deuteronomy 6:1-9, Proverbs 4:20-27**

*“Bring Them Up”*

Pastor Patrick Bowler

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### **Consult the Scriptures:**

**Ephesians 6:1-4**

**Deuteronomy 6:1-9**

**Proverbs 4:20-27**

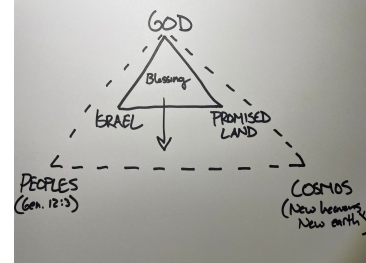
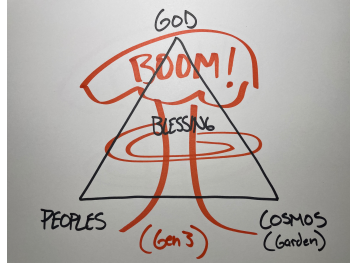
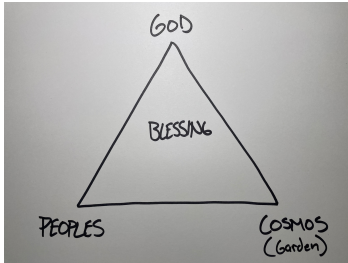
*(See also: Eph. 5:22-33, Ex. 20:12, Prov. 4:10, 10:27, 30:17, Rom. 1:28-32, Lk. 14:26, Heb. 2:1)*

### **Consult the Scholars:**

**Paul David Tripp**—*“Parents, here’s what you need to understand: God has given you the authority for the work of change, but has not granted you the power to make the change happen. But we buy into the delusion of thinking again and again that the power is ours. We think that if we speak just a little bit louder, or stand a little bit closer, or make the threat a little bit scarier, or the punishment a little more severe, then our children will change. And because the change doesn’t happen, we tend to bring it on even stronger.”* (Paul David Tripp, *Parenting* [Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016], p. 61.)

**Paul David Tripp**—*“You can exercise temporary control over a child’s behavior, but what needs to change in order for that change to last and bear*

*fruit is something inside the child... In parenting, what you are dealing with is way deeper than the need for behavioral change. What you're always dealing with is the need for heart change, and we simply have no power at all to change another person's heart."* (Paul David Tripp, *Parenting* [Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016], p. 61.)



## **Discuss:**

1. Read Ephesians 6:1-4 and discuss. How does Eph. 6:1-4 fit within the context as Paul approaches the end of the book? What's the difference between chps. 1-3 and chps. 4-6?
2. Where does Paul root the command for children to "obey" and "honor" their parents (see Ex. 20:12)? Why is this significant? How are we to explain this reference in light of the old covenant being obsolete (see Heb. 8:13, Matt. 5:17)?
3. Considering the promise attached to the command in Eph. 6:3 (c.f. Ex. 20:12), what principle are we to draw out for our lives today (See also Prov. 4:10, 10:27, 30:17)?
4. How are we to understand this text in light of the fact that there are less than honorable parents in our fallen world? How are children of such parents to apply this passage?

5. Pastor Patrick referenced author Paul Tripp's "power tools"<sup>1</sup> often used in parenting: Shame, fear, and reward. How might these various "tools" or methods harm our children, provoking them to anger? Do you recognize any of these tools in your parenting?
6. Read the above quotes and discuss. What stands out to you?
7. Why are origin stories so important? Revisit the above pictures and rehearse our origin story. As Christians, who are we? Where do we come from and where do we belong?
8. What challenged you with this week's sermon? What questions do you still have? What's your next move?

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<sup>1</sup> Paul David Tripp, *Parenting* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway, 2016), p. 63.