



¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not [provoke your child to anger]; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. – **Ephesians 6:1-4**

Three types of parents:

1. DISTANT parents...

... ACCEPT what their children do.

2. DAZED parents...

... EXPECT their children to do the right thing.

Whatever is TOLERATED is REPLICATED.

3. DEVOTED parents...

... INSPECT what their children are doing.

Whatever is CELEBRATED is DUPLICATED.

NOTES FOR FURTHER STUDY

REFLECTION

- If you are a parent, what do you think is the most challenging thing about being a parent? Why?
- Whether you are a parent or not, being around children can unintentionally teach us profound lessons. What are some of the lessons you have learned from children?
- If you are a parent, how has being a parent impacted your relationship with God?
- As a parent, would you rather give your children easy comfort or good character? How can these two things sometimes be in conflict with each other?

DIGGING DEEPER

- Read **Deuteronomy 6:5-7**.
 - What is the most important thing we can teach our children?
 - How should we teach this?
- Read **Psalms 103:13-14**.
 - How do good parents show compassion toward their children (see **v. 13**)?
 - How does the birth and early childhood of your children affect the way you see and treat them (see **v. 14**)?
 - What does this teach us about how God sees and treats us?
- Read **Ephesians 4:2**. How do you think parents can live out the characteristics in this verse with their children?