

SACRED HOME

Theological Foundations for the Family Challenges of Modern Parenting



God's Design for Parents and Children

Main Point: In God's design, parents have the responsibility to educate their children in the faith without undue provocation; children, in turn, have a temporary obligation to obey their parents and a lifelong duty to honor them.

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Educating Your Children

Deuteronomy 6:5-9—You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 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.

Faithful Education

1. Prioritize the faith within the home and seek to live it out
2. Raise their children within a Christian community
3. Illustrate for their children how to think Christianly

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Avoiding Undue Provocation

“This passage effectively rules out reactionary flare-ups, overly harsh words, insults, sarcasm, nagging, demeaning comments, inappropriate teasing, unreasonable demands, and anything else that can be perceived as provocative.”¹

“This is what they are not to do. They are not to excite the bad passions of their children by anger, severity, injustice, partiality, or any undue exercise of authority. This is a great evil. It is sowing tares instead of wheat in a fruitful soil.”²

Obedying Your Parents

“The “children” (τὰ τέκνα) he speaks of are those who are still in the home. They are old enough to understand instructions from their parents and deliberate over whether they should obey or go their own way.”³

Honoring Your Parents

Exodus 20:12—Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹ Clinton E. Arnold, *Ephesians*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 418.

² Charles Hodge, *Systematic Theology*, vol. 3 (Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1997), 352.

³ Clinton E. Arnold, *Ephesians*, Zondervan Exegetical Commentary on the New Testament (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 415