

Parents and Children

Ephesians 6:1-4

A Word to Children (6:1-3)

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

Related passages: Exodus 21:15; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Leviticus 19:3

But with the command, comes a PROMISE

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.”*

I think this is a promise on 2 levels:

1. Obeying Your Parents Keeps You Out of Trouble and on a Good Path
Generally speaking, your parents know better than you what’s best for you.
2. Obeying Your Parents Will Bring God’s Direct Blessings on Your Life
Not only will you experience the natural blessing of following the counsel and direction of your parents, but you will also be blessed by God for your obedience.

How to Make a Righteous Appeal

Now, what do you do when your parents are asking to do something that you sincerely disagree with? Are you allowed to say something? Yes. You are allowed to make a respectful, righteous appeal.

What does that sound like? It goes like this:

1. Ask for permission to speak
2. Respectfully share your perspective, once, maybe twice
3. Submit to whatever they finally decide

A Word to Adult Children

What does it look like to “honor” our parents?

- Serve them
- Seek their counsel
- Include them
- Call them
- Be sensitive to their physical and emotional needs
- Be proactive in thinking about their long-term care

Some thoughts for parents of adult children:

- Respect their need to leave and cleave
- Don't insert yourself
- Don't be busybodies or pushy
- Don't guilt-trip
- Don't quote the 5th commandment

A Healthy Pattern Between Parents and Children

<u>DEPENDENCE</u>	<u>INDEPENDENCE</u>	<u>INTER-DEPENDENCE</u>	<u>DEPENDENCE</u>
CHILD UPON PARENT	PEER to PEER	PEER to PEER	PARENT UPON CHILD
<i>Child is dependent upon Parents</i>	<i>Child must become independent from parents</i>	<i>Both need each other, serve one another, while still respecting space</i>	<i>Parent is increasingly dependent upon Child</i>

A Word to Fathers (6:4)

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:4)

Random Thoughts for Dads

- Your kids will naturally project your character onto God's character
- Be gentle and humble in heart. (Matthew 11:29)
- Be the first to apologize!
- Soft Hearts, Careful Communication
- Three essential disciplines of a Dad (James 1:19-20)
- Ask questions, don't assume you know
- No sarcasm
- Remember, they're not your kids
- Remember... respect goes both ways.
- "Rules without relationship breeds rebellion"
- Connect with them emotionally. Play with them. Laugh with them. Delight in them. Speak words of affection over them.
- Let your face light up when you see them (Numbers 6:24-26)
- When you must correct your child's behavior, think "What kind of word do they need right now?" (2 Timothy 3:16-17)
- Pray for GOD to disciple your kids

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. Why are children commanded to obey their parents as an expression of honoring them?
2. In what ways will it "go well" for those who honor their parents?
3. In what practical ways can you better honor your parents?
4. Examine the suggested "Healthy Pattern..." diagram. Do you agree? Disagree?
5. Dads, in what ways are you possibly provoking your children to wrath? What steps do you need to take to better 1.) nurture them 2.) instruct them and 3.) admonish them?