

## Ephesians 6:1-3 “The Beauty of Children”

### **Introduction**

Paul wrote in Ephesians 5:21: “Be subject to one another in the fear (i.e. a deep honor and respect) of Christ.”

In Ephesians 5:22-6:9, Paul makes application of verse 21 by addressing three common areas of life and relationships.

- Husbands and wives (5:22-33)
- Parents and children (6:1-4)
- Employers and employees (6:5-9)

Today we are going to look at the “Role of Children” (6:1-3).

### **Eph 6:1-3**

- 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:
- 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

### **6:1 Children “Obey” your Parents**

#### **Eph 6:1**

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

#### **A. Children**

Children – even though we’re all “children”, I do not believe this command to obey is aimed at adults, but children.

#### **B. “Obey”**

obey – *hupakouo* – to listen, to harken to a command; to hear under, to obey

The parents are the boss of the children.

The parents have the authority over their children.

Children are to submit to that authority and obey.

**Example:** Jesus did it!!!

#### **Luke 2:51**

And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and **was submissive to them.**  
And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

**So many Proverbs on this subject, here are a few:**

#### **Prov 13:1**

1 A wise son heeds his father's instruction,

But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

**Prov 15:5**

5 A fool despises his father's instruction,  
But he who receives correction is prudent.

**Prov 1:8-9**

8 My son, hear the instruction of your father,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother;  
9 For they will be a graceful ornament on your head,  
And chains about your neck.

**Prov 3:1**

1 My son, do not forget my law, But let your heart keep my commands;

**Prov 3:4**

4 And so find favor and high esteem In the sight of God and man.

Actually it says this in Luke 1 about Jesus:

**Luke 2:52**

52 And **Jesus increased in wisdom and stature**, and **in favor with God and men**.

**Prov 6:20-23**

20 My son, keep your father's command,  
And do not forsake the law of your mother.  
21 Bind them continually upon your heart;  
Tie them around your neck.  
22 When you roam, they will lead you;  
When you sleep, they will keep you;  
And when you awake, they will speak with you.  
23 For the commandment is a lamp,  
And the law a light;  
Reproofs of instruction are the way of life,

**C. in the Lord**

It is NOT the parents asking their Children to obey them. But, children are to understand that the Lord has arranged this season of life.

God has given you the parents that God chose for you, whether that is for an easy life in childhood or a hard life.

This is your first school of learning submission to authority. You don't want to flunk out, because your next lesson will most likely be harder.

Even though it is a hard thing to put yourself under their authority, know that God is going to use it for His glory, whether a good home life or a difficult home life.

- D. For this is right or is good from God's point of view, the one who made all things:**  
right – *dikaïos* – observing divine laws; It's not just what seems right to me, but what is right before God.

**Prov 3:5-6**

5 Trust in the LORD with all your heart,  
 And lean not on your own understanding;  
 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him,  
 And He shall direct your paths.

**E. 3 Aspects involved in Obedience:**

1. **How:** "in the Lord"

We have 2 Fathers: an earthly one, but all believers also, have a Heavenly Father. Try to get around your earthly Father and you will be confronted by your Heavenly Father.

**Heb 12:6**

6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."

2. **What:** "in all things"

**Col 3:20** Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

3. **Why:** "for this is right and pleasing to the Lord"

- for this is right and pleasing to the Lord:

**Col 3:20b** .... for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

- We need it:

**Prov 22:15a** Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; ....

6:2-3 Children "Honor" your father and mother... that it may be well with you
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**Eph 6:2-3**

2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:  
 3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

**Deut 5:16**

16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

**A. Honor: Father and Mother**

Honor – *timao* – fix the value; honor, revere

There will be a time when you know longer have to “obey” your parents, but there will never be a time when you aren’t supposed to continue honoring them.

**B. that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth**

Kids who obey their parents in the Lord are blessed in both their young and adult years of life.

<b>Children have “Three Responsibilities” to their Parents according to the Bible</b>
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1. **Obey** (When they are young, or as long as living in their parents’ house)
2. **Honor** (Even when you don’t live under your parent’s authority, they are still to be honored)
3. **Support and/or Provide for their parents in their elderly years**

**1 Tim 5:3-4**

Honor widows who are really widows.

4 But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first **learn** (*i.e. continually to learn, for whole life time*) to show piety (*i.e. respect*) at home and **to repay their parents**; for this is good and acceptable before God.

**1 Tim 5:8**

8 But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever.

<b>Conclusion</b>
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1. Obey
2. Honor
3. Support and/or Provide for in their elderly years.

**Children fulfill your role as a submitted child, and obey while you have that short season of life:**

We are not to be like the world in their attitudes towards authority in how a family is run or how children are to act. We are the church, “The called out ones”, we are different and that difference will be light to the Lost world.

**Phil 2:12-13**

12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling; 13 for it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure.

**Phil 2:14-15**

14 Do all things without complaining and disputing, 15 that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

**Honor them, especially when you disagree:**

The entire concept is hinged on the fact that this is difficult because you are seeing/or not seeing, “eye to eye” with them.

It is easy to obey, submit, and honor when it is the very thing you want to do anyway.

This command would not be needed if you were always in agreement.

So, when you see things differently from you parents and they are not letting you do something you want to do, or making you do something you don’t want to do, it is at this moment/time/season that you can truly honor God, by honoring your parents.

**Caring for elderly parents:**

Often it is when you have just finished raising your own kids and are now looking forward to being alone with your spouse and doing things with just the 2 of you and enjoying this season of life together. And then you have to have the parents move in and/or care for an elderly parent.

It is a new season of life that God is using in you to grow in character in a way you don’t want to have to learn.

But, in order to honor God, you once again (in a different way), honor you parents. Respect them and help them to be able to maintain dignity in their elderly years.