

Col 3:20-21
“Children and Their Parents”

Introduction

Last time we saw God’s exhortation to wives and to husbands.

We pondered the obvious: Verses 1-17 proceeded the command to the wives and husbands to submit, and to love.

Col 3:12-17

12 Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do. 14 But above all these things put on love, which is the bond of perfection. 15 And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful. 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord. 17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

In Col. 3 Paul speaks of “submission, and/or obedience”, in three common areas of life and relationships.

- Husbands and wives (3:18-19)
- Children to Parents; Note to Dads (3:20-21)
- Employers and employees (3:22- 4:1)

Today we are going to look at the “Role of Children”:

3:20 Children “Obey” your Parents

Col 3:20

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

A. Children

The Greek word (Tekna) – children; This is a general term for children and is not limited to a specific age group. But usually refers to any child still living in the home and under parental guidance.

B. “Obey”

The Greek word (*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.

Obedience:

- 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 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 obeying your parents.

Example: Jesus did it!!! (expound story of Luke 2)

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 2 about Jesus:

Luke 2:52

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

C. Exception:

If parents ask you to do something that is clearly wrong in God’s eyes.

In these last day’s there are many wicked things.

- Molestation,
- Parents having their kids buy drugs for them because they are minors and if they get caught they won’t be as punished,

- And many other evil, wicked, sick things.

Important note:

Children should be taught to honor “God the father” before their human father, and if a human parent asks them to do something unethical or immoral they should refuse and then tell another authority in their life. (Pastor, teacher, etc.)

Note: Sorry for having to bring up such things, but it is a real reality in these days.

D. “Your” parents

We need to respect all those older than us (1 Peter 5)

1 Peter 5:5

5 Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders.

Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for
"God resists the proud,
But gives grace to the humble."

But it is **NOT** the same as obeying your **“OWN”** parents. Just like a wife submitting to her “own” husband, not “men” in general.

Paul has in mind children who are still in their parents’ household and under their authority. For these, they must not only *honor* their father and mother (Ephesians 6:2), but they must also **obey** them, and **obey** them **in all things**.

Note:

When a child is grown and out of their parents’ household they are no longer under the same obligation of **obedience**, but the obligation to **honor** *your father and mother* remains.

Interesting that Paul only mentions “to obey parents”, but does not cover the “honoring” of parents in the book of Colossians, but Paul in Eph 6:1 says to obey, but then has 2 additional verses on “honoring”:

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."

In particular to your own Parents in the older 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.

E. in all things

Not just in areas of spiritual things, but also in practical things.

Note:

I told my kids as long as they are living in my house (*i.e. the house God has provided*), that they will also live by my convictions and rules that I and their mom are living under.

Once you move out and living on your own, then you will have to discover your own rules and convictions on how to live a holy and righteous life before Christ.

3:20 Children “Obey” your Parents

Col 3:20

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

A. for this is well pleasing to the Lord

In the book of Ephesians, Paul adds; Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Eph 6:1... “in the Lord, for this is right” or Col 3:20... “this is well pleasing to 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 their lives.

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

Example: (David to his Father-in-law, Saul) - (expound on story)

Why does God allow Parents like “Saul’s” to terrorize their children so? The answer is “you don’t have the David’s without the Saul’s. David’s “character” created by having to walk by faith in a deep way and to not throw spears back at the Saul’s.

Some of you may have Saul’s as parents or step-parents, and it is a challenge to you to submit, but it is “you” not them. David submitted to a man chasing him to kill him and he still had a heart of submission. I am sure your situation is not as bad as David’s.

Note:

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.

Understand:

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.

B. Why Obedience?

1. Why: (Col 3:20)...it is pleasing to the Lord” (Eph 6:1)... “for this is right

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.

2. **How:** (Col 3:20)... **in all things;** (Eph 6:1)... **“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.

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

Heb 12:6

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

C. Note: “The odds of actually having 2 parents in the home is rare!”

Both parents: (Dad and Mom both)

You who have both parents together, cherish that, it is a rare thing these days.

Sometimes it is easier to obey one parent over the other, (examples: “Dad because in scarier or spansks harder”, or not Mom because she won’t follow through on really doing anything about it, etc.). We are to obey “BOTH” parents!

Young people: “One day you will see what a blessing your parents have been to you. And in that day, you don’t want to look back and wish you had done.... Or had not done..... things right in God’s eyes.

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,

Single parents, “especially single moms”:

You who have just one parent, (especially you single moms), honor them they are sacrificing their life for you. Spending all their energy, and then more. Everyday doing the impossible. Bless them for their sacrifice and don’t be bitter at them for not having a

spouse. One day you will see what it is they have done for you and you will be so thankful for them, and so very sorry if you did not love and honor them.

Be encouraged today, by God's promise to you:

Ps 68:5

5 A father of the fatherless, a **defender of widows**,
Is God in His holy habitation.

Ps 82:3

3 **Defend** the poor and **fatherless**;
Do justice to the afflicted and needy.

D. Note: Prophetically:

Parents not being obeyed is one of the signs before the coming of the Lord:

2 Tim 3:1-2

1 **But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come:**2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents**, unthankful, unholy,

3:21 A quick note to Dads

Col 3:21

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Note before we start:

Older Parents looking back over the time they parented, often feel condemned and are easily beat up by the devil with condemnation on this topic. I don't believe God is trying to get all you older parents discouraged by this passage. But as old men and women some of us may have had opportunity to help younger parents do better than we did.

A. Fathers, do not provoke your children:

Children have a responsibility to obey, but parents (i.e. in particular Dads) have a responsibility to **not provoke** their **children** and cause them to be discouraged.

There are many unjustified ways, Parents can **provoke** their children by:

1. Being too harsh,
This harshness can be expressed through words, through actions, or through non-verbal communication.
2. Too demanding
3. Too controlling
4. Unforgiving
5. Just plain angry a lot of the time

Note: In most parenting problems the parent blames the child.

- It's easy to do, because the problem is usually most evident in the bad behavior in the child.

- But, Paul wisely reminds us that the bad behavior may actually be *provoked* by the anger of the parent.
 - When this is the case, it doesn't justify the bad behavior of the child, but it may explain part of its cause.
 - It's up to parents to do everything they can to **not provoke** their **children**.
6. The fastest way to provoke kids is by giving them rules without relationship, which can breed anger in them.
- Don't just have rules and no **relationship**.
 - We need to **listen** to our kids and evaluate each request, showing them respect
 - We need to **listen** and **be patient** as our kids try to put it into words and talk to us...
 - If we don't take the time to listen, they will be provoked and be discouraged...
7. Parents can also provoke their kids to wrath by being **inconsistent**...
- By swinging back and forth from extreme **permissiveness** to extreme **legalism**.
 - There is no logical answer, why parents can be so against everything one day and they seem to have no rules or guidelines another day.
 - This can also cause a child to have great insecurity

B. Lest they become discouraged:

- Children who grow up with parents who provoke them will **become discouraged**.
- They will not feel the love and the support from their parents like they should,
- And they will come to believe that the whole world is against them, because they feel their parents are against them.
- This reminds us how important it is to season our parenting with lots of grace.
- Perhaps we should be as gracious, gentle, forgiving, and longsuffering with our children as God is with us.

Conclusion

Tips to remember about kids, and the right mindset for good/godly parenting:

1. Life is not easy for children, even children from Christian homes...
 - Don't forget mom and dad, that even though their problems are not big for you, they're big to those little ones.
 - Point them to Jesus and help them to learn to look to Him for wisdom and guidance.
 - We as parents are not perfect and we should not demand that of our children
2. Listen carefully, share the feelings and frustrations of your kids, pray with them, seek to encourage them, help them to grow as a person and in the Lord.
 - Home ought to be the most **encouraging** place in the world...
 - Children that are discouraged at home are open prey for Satan and the world...
 - If a child doesn't get encouraged at home they will seek it somewhere else...
 - Often Parents are distracted by sin, distracted by career and fail to help their kids develop their gifts and find their calling in life...

3. Relationship, **spending time** with our kids is the greatest way to **encourage** our kids...
 - A survey in America... **Average** father spends around 37 seconds a day with their kids, outside of telling them to do their homework and clean their rooms.
 - In our day, People's priorities are messed up...
 - Parents giving dedicated time to their kids can be a great encouragement and not spending dedicated time with their kids can be a great discouragement ...
 - God has put these precious little ones into our hands as parents, it will only last a short time...
 - Raising Children is no doubt one of the biggest responsibilities in our entire lifetimes...

4. Children need their parents to be genuine role models
 - Don't be a hypocrite, it really makes kids life hard to listen and obey you
 - and can also stumble them badly

5. We are to raise our kids **as disciples**, just as the Lord is raising us as a disciples...
 - We are to raise them in the "**name of the Lord**" and in the **nature** of the Lord...
 - Teach your kids how they need the Lord and to have Faith in Him
 - Teach them that all of life flows out of our relationship with God It is in Him and by Him that we can be what we need to be for our kids...
 - Parents let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly ... And then speak to your kids, in songs and hymns, and spiritual songs, just as Col 3, tells us to do...
 - Help your kids find and know the very presence of the Lord and then show them what it means to live daily in it.

6. **Conclusion:**
 - Our homes are to be a place where our kids find encouragement...
 - A refuge from the battle of the world
 - And a place to receive strength to fight the battle...
 - Home is the place a child should find a loving **heart**, a **watching** eye, a **helping** hand.
 - Kids should find a home with parents submitted to the Lord.
 - If kids grow up in such a godly home, they themselves will most likely also trust Christ and want to live for Him...