

Children Obey; Father's Love

Ephesians 6:1-4

March 21, 2023

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise¹: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4

So far – Call as Christians, Call as God's Church, Call as Parents, Call as children!

Flow – Husbands love wives as Christ loved the Church, wives submit to your husbands as Christ submitted to the Church, children obey and Father's love and lead.

All of the family would have been hearing this together at one time.

Here, Paul would not just be talking to children but also "grownups" especially to his words of "honor your father and mother."

Obedience is Right (v. 1)

Children, kids, and teenagers (dependent offspring) are to obey their "parents in the Lord." God so set up the family that parent(s) are to be over the children and the children are to obey the parents. It's God's plan that the parent(s) would follow and obey the Lord and the children would obey the parents. As the children grow they would then obey their parents\the Lord.

WE all need to understand and grasp, and I tell this to our children and to all teenagers in general, we will ALWAYS be answering to someone. There will always be someone to "obey", if you will, or to submit to. Our spouse, kids, job, law, etc. Again, this is part of God's design. Obedient children yield Godly adults.

But what about.... *But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: "We ought to obey God rather than men. Acts 5:29*

Honor is for all children; we are all someone's child!

This command is given to all children, the young ones and the grown up ones.

Honoring your father and mother is being respectful in word and action and having an inward attitude of esteem for their position. The Greek word for honor means "to revere, prize, and value." Honor is giving respect not only for merit but also for rank. For example, some Americans may disagree with the President's decisions, but they should still respect his position as leader of their country. Similarly, children of all ages should honor their parents, regardless of whether or not their parents "deserve" honor. God exhorts us to honor father and mother. He values honoring parents enough to include it in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:12) and again in the New Testament: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor your father and mother which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth" (Ephesians 6:1-3). Honoring parents is the only command in Scripture that promises long life as a reward. Those who honor their parents are blessed (Jeremiah 35:18-19). In contrast, those with a "depraved mind" and those who exhibit ungodliness in the last days are characterized by disobedience to parents (Romans 1:30; 2 Timothy 3:2).

¹ Exodus 20:12

Solomon, the wisest man, urged children to respect their parents (Proverbs 1:8; 13:1; 30:17). Although we may no longer be directly under their authority, we cannot outgrow God's command to honor our parents. Even Jesus, God the Son, submitted Himself to both His earthly parents (Luke 2:51) and His heavenly Father (Matthew 26:39). Following Christ's example, we should treat our parents the way we would reverentially approach our heavenly Father (Hebrews 12:9; Malachi 1:6). Obviously, we are commanded to honor our parents, but how? Honor them with both actions and attitudes (Mark 7:6). Honor their unspoken as well as spoken wishes. "A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke" (Proverbs 13:1). In Matthew 15:3-9, Jesus reminded the Pharisees of the command of God to honor their father and mother. They were obeying the letter of the law, but they had added their own traditions that essentially overruled it. While they honored their parents in word, their actions proved their real motive. Honor is more than lip service. The word "honor" in this passage is a verb and, as such, demands a right action.²

Obedience is Commanded (v. 2a)

Obedience brings Blessing (vs. 2b-3)

This promise is also found in Exodus 20:12 *Honor your father and your mother, that your days may belong upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.*

Fathers:

Nurture our children.

Discipline our children.

Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 22:15

Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart ^{is} on his destruction.

Proverbs 19:18

The rod and rebuke give wisdom, but a child left to himself brings shame to his mother.

Proverbs 29:15

Instruct and Encourage our children.

Prayer Focus:

Children, are we obeying?

All, are we honoring?

Are we falling under God's overall authority?

² <https://www.gotquestions.org/honor-father-mother.html>