

"Heaven in the Home"

Ephesians 6.1-4

GENERAL RULE - Parent should NOT Tell another How to Raise Children
ESPECIALLY when Mine are on DIFFERENT CONTINENT

"One child makes a home a course in liberal education for both himself and parents, two children make it a private school; three or more make it a campus..."

"Perfect Home" Reader's Digest

Many Parents NOT Sure if Ready to be Professors in this University!

MESSAGE Based NOT on my EXAMPLE or My AUTHORITY - Word of God

Ephesians > Paul EXTOLLING Wonders of Jesus Christ and His Church

GOD'S MASTER PLAN FOR THE UNIVERSE - AND EVERY FAMILY
to bring all things in heaven and on earth together under one head, even Christ

Ephesians 1.10

TODAY - World WORRIED if NORTH Korea has H-Bomb – DEADLY Power!

Related Scary Question > have DELIVERY SYSTEM? – Where can it Hit???

MIGHTY Dynamite of the Gospel of Jesus Christ needs Delivery System

ANGELS Could have been Enlisted – God called Men, Women, Boys, Girls

God PREPAREs Gospel Delivery System thru CHRIST Honoring MARRIAGES

HE PROTECTs Gospel Delivery System in CHRIST Serving FAMILIES

1. Place of Blessing FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

a. in Church GOD'S NEW SOCIETY - CITY OF LIGHT SET ON A HILL

PAUL does Not TELL PARENTS TO TELL KIDS - SPEAKS DIRECTLY

Tychicus, the dear brother and faithful servant in the Lord, will tell you
everything

Ephesians 6:21

PAUL DICTATED LETTER to him - HE CARRIED IT - PERHAPS READ IT

When LETTER Arrived from APOSTLE – ALL People of God gathered to Hear

SAME WAS TRUE OF CHURCH IN COLOSSAE

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20,21

IN OTHER WORDS – CHILDREN were in Meeting - Not Nursery, OR ...

Still in BED – Soccer Field – McDonald's – Watching VIDEO w/ PARENTS

INSTRUCTION TO CHILDREN WAS NOT AT BEGINNING -

THEY LISTENED THROUGH THE READING OF 5 CHAPTERS so far...

DID CHILDREN UNDERSTAND IT All? Do YOU? I DON'T! GOD'S WORD!

CHILDREN & ADULTS - Can UNDERSTAND enough to Love & Serve Jesus

Children in Church – Know REAL Family – Eternal Family, Brothers & Sisters

See how BIG and DIVERSE Family – All Ages, Races, Cultures, Languages

REAL Life – Problems, Failures, Struggles even in the CHURCH

Many Churches Young people SEPARATE Program during Church Service

Of COURSE More Convenient – ONE STOP SHOPPING! – Get In, Get OUT!

High Percent NEVER Connect w/ Church – GRADUATE: Youth Group & God!

LISTENING to WORD of GOD with Understanding - Learned BEHAVIOR

LEARNED BEST by EXAMPLE - Parent ATTENTIVE / Focused on Lord

Sunday Night – Listening to Josh great Message – Pay Attention God's Word

Guy NEAR did NOT Hear Message > Having GIGGLES doing FACEBOOK

Thankful for PRE-TEEN Class – Helping Kids – PARENTS, Anyone Welcome!

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Matthew 19.14

ONLY Problem – Is when CHILD KEEPS ALL FROM HEARING WORD

BLAST is OK – A BARRAGE is NOT ACCEPTABLE

b. in the Lord v. 1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord"

PAUL CONSIDERS THEM CHRISTIANS - favorite descript "in X"

NOT JUST INFORMED ABOUT THE LORD / INTIMATE W/ THE LORD

MAYBE CHILDREN OUGHT TO BE IN THE PULPIT...

Jesus said, "I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things (*Sovereign Truths*) from the wise and learned, and *revealed them to little children*. Yes, Father, for this was your good pleasure. Matthew 11.25

GOD CAN CALL PEOPLE OF ANY AGE - RACE - CREED - EDUCATION

For God does not show favoritism.

Romans 2.11

Pastor Benny Tonga – from Tonga – led our Pacific Fellowship – Preaching at 6!

JESUS ENTERED TEMPLE ON HOLY WEEK - MANY ADULTS SILENT

JEWISH LEADERS WERE INDIGNANT TO SEE Accolades for this Upstart

...children shouting in the temple area, "Hosanna to the Son of David," They asked Jesus "Do you hear what these children are saying?" "Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read, "From the lips of children and infants you have ordained praise'?"

Matthew 21.15

HIS PEOPLE - YOUNG AND OLD - ARE COMMANDED TO -

be filled with the Spirit

Ephesians 5.18

WHEN KIDS MISBEHAVE - NEED TO PRAY & READ WORD OF GOD

Very GOOD Idea for MOM & DAD --- and SINGLES too!!

EVIDENCE of Being FILLED with the HOLY SPIRIT...

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5.21

PERSON becomes CHRISTIAN - NOT Released from Normal Obligations -

OBLIGATIONS become for them a 2. Path of Blessing

God Transforms Us - DUTY TURNS FROM DRUDGERY TO DELIGHT

a. Obey v. 1 "Children, obey your parents"

TO OBEY PARENTS IS TO OBEY GOD / TO DISOBEY - DISOBEY GOD

5th Commandment - HINGE between 2 TABLES of Law 1) God & 2) man
 1-4 Focus on Love for God > No Other god, No Idols, Name of God, Sabbath
 6-10 Love for Neighbor: Murder, Adultery, Stealing, False Witness, Coveting
 5th in MIDDLE > Love for Closest Neighbors / Parents > Love for God

NOT ABSOLUTE Obedience to PARENTS - Only God deserves that Honor

CHILDREN BEEN ABUSED IN NAME OF OBEDIENCE TO PARENTS

THREE REASONS WHY CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY....

1) Nature v. 1 "for this is right" - ORDER IN NATURE

EVEN YOUNG ANIMALS ARE TAUGHT TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS

EVEN PAGAN GREEK AND ROMAN SOCIETY TAUGHT THIS

One of the great emphasis' of Confucius - Respect for Parents

ANSWERS our Children's Constant QUESTION - WHYYYYYY

Go to Bed / Clean your Room / Wash the Dishes / Read your Bible - WHY??

BECAUSE "*I told you to*" - THAT'S WHAT IT IS TO BE CHILD

A wise son heeds his father's instruction, but a mocker does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 13.1

Surely it is because God knows how we as parents are so easily torn by our love for our children and our insecurities about ourselves that he graciously speaks so plainly here... When a young mother cannot bring herself to discipline her child, when a father will not supply the time or attention to discipline, when the latest childrearing book has made us question whether we should ignore some improper outburst from a child – in each of these moments we need this straightforward simplicity from God “for this is right.” Bryan Chapell

2) Law v. 2 “Honor your father and mother”

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the LORD your God is giving you. Exodus 20.12

"obedience is the evidence of the honor which children owe to their parents"
John Calvin

REASON FOR VERY STRONG PENALTY FOR DISOBEDIENCE

If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who does not obey his father and mother and will not listen to them when they discipline him, his father and mother shall take hold of him and bring him to the elders at the gate of his town... Then all the men of his town shall stone him to death. You must purge the evil from among you. All Israel will hear of it and be afraid. Deuteronomy 21:18-21

EXTREME Example > No Biblical Record of this Law being ENFORCED

NOW in NEW Covenant – NOT Applicable Today – We'd ALL be DEAD!

CLEAR Point > Don't QUESTION GOD - SOCIETY OF ORDER & RESPECT

3) Gospel - WE ARE UNDER GRACE OF GOSPEL

v. 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord... / v. 4 instruction of the Lord

OBEDIENCE NO LESS IMPORTANT - WILL ANSWER to LORD JESUS

LAW External Warning / GOSPEL Internal Wooing >> We WANT to Follow...

vs. 5-7 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man

WE ARE TO OBEY & HONOR PARENTS TO EXALT CHRIST

PROBLEMS FACED by CHRISTIAN KIDS W/ NON-CHRISTIAN PARENTS

Might NOT be Persecution > Try CLEANING Room - STOP TALKING BACK

REFLECT CHARACTER OF CHRIST TO OUR PARENTS – Can be HARD!

IN GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM - A CHILD TAKES HIGHEST PLACE

He called a little child and had him stand among them. And he said: "I tell you the truth, unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Therefore, whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."
Matthew 18.2-6

1 of REASONS CHILDREN NEED TO BE IN CHURCH IS SO

WE ALL LEARN SIMPLE FAITH – FULL DEPENDENCE ON FATHER

Jesus: “I tell you the truth, anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it.”
Mark 10.15

b. Honor "Honor your father and mother" SHOW RESPECT & LOVE

OBEDIENCE DUE as Long as PARENTS Still PAYING Your BILLS

ADULT Children are NOT Responsible to OBEY > Make OWN Choices

HONOR IS COMMANDED FOR A LIFETIME

NO MATTER HOW GOOD OR BAD YOUR PARENTS WERE –

FIND SOMETHING TO HONOR - Grateful for Bringing U into World

At no time does the child arrive at the age when he is not to honor his parents, but the time for obeying them is limited.
Henry Vander Kam

FATHER OWNED HIS OWN BUSINESS - Not mean Rich, Worked all Time

MANY TIMES GROWING UP - WEEK PASSED AND NEVER SAW HIM

left house before I was awake - came home after I went to bed

Most of my Big Events of Life – SCHOOL or SPORTS – Never There!

MADE ME ANGRY AND HURT - YET I STILL NEED TO HONOR HIM

ALWAYS TREATED ME WITH KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY

5th Commandment NOT "blame your father and mother" > HONOR

EVERY CHILD Grows into Responsible MORAL AGENT - ACCOUNTABLE

3. Promise of Blessing

a. First DIFFERENT POSSIBILITIES BY WHAT HE MEANS HERE

QUOTING FROM 5th COMMANDMENT

v. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise)

APPARENT PROBLEM - 2nd C > PROMISE OF MERCY FROM GOD

5th COMMAND of First Importance to Children - PROMISE ATTACHED

b. Long Life v. 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land”

PROMISE ORIGINALLY FOR HEBREWS ENTERING CANAAN

PRINCIPLE - Obedient children escape a great deal of DANGER & SIN

AVOID THE THINGS THAT CAN SHORTEN THEIR LIVES

COMMAND in Deut 21 – Stubbornly Rebellious Son should NOT LIVE!

Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. Proverbs 19.18

CHURCH of Jesus - New ISRAEL of GOD - DOMINION IS WHOLE EARTH

NOT MEAN those who DIE YOUNG ARE NECESSARILY DISOBEDIENT

LIFE in Christ > Both QUANTITY & QUALITY - ETERNAL & ABUNDANT

LIVE FOREVER IN A NEW HEAVEN AND NEW EARTH

c. Enjoy v. 3 “that it may go well with you - GOD IS TRUE JOY GIVER

PAUL TOLD THE PAGAN GENTILES AT LYSTRA

"GOD provides you with plenty of food and fills your hearts with joy." Acts 14.17

ONLY TRUE JOY - EVEN FOR UNBELIEVERS - COMES FROM JESUS

Jesus: “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.” John 10.10

For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking, but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit Romans 14.17

May the God of hope fill you with all joy Romans 15.13

the fruit of the Spirit is joy Galatians 5.22

joy in the faith Philippians 1.25 / the joy of the Holy Spirit. • 1 Thessalonians 1.6

Christian HOME should be JOYFUL Home > Children should WANT to Follow
Because they have Experienced REAL PRESENCE of the God of ALL JOY

JOY the World KNOWS NOTHING ABOUT

DAVID'S ENEMIES Could NOT ROB of him of his REAL JOY...

There are many who say, "Who will show us some good? Lift up the light of your face upon us, O LORD!" You have put more joy in my heart than they have when their grain and wine abound. Psalm 4.6,7

Even in DIFFICULTY - Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy...

2 Corinthians 8.2

Especially in Difficulty - in all our troubles my joy knows no bounds

2 Corinthians 7.4

45% Students said Parent's Divorce "most determinative life-changing event"
Survey of Students at Duke University

Remember the ORDER of Paul's Teaching in Ephesians

FIRST – Most Important Relationship – TO Jesus Christ, made ALIVE in Him

SECOND – to HIS Church – New Temple, Living Stones from All Nations

THIRD – for SOME – MARRIAGE > Place of LOVE & JOY

FOURTH – for Some – PARENTING

Greatest Earthly Gift a Parent can give a Child is Loving Relationship w/ Spouse

MODEL of LOVE, FORGIVENESS, INTIMACY > for Future and their FAITH

4. Parents who Bless

Chapter 5 - GREAT ADVANCES FOR WOMEN ADVOCATED BY PAUL
EVEN GREATER ADVANCES ARE PROPOSED HERE FOR CHILDREN

ROMAN LAW "patria potestas" = "the father's power"

POWER of LIFE & DEATH – Could make Slaves in Chains to Work his Fields

Could Leave to Die at Birth if he did Not Want them esp. Girls

"if - good luck to you - you have a child, if it is a boy, let it live, if it is a girl, throw it out!"
 Roman Father's Letter to his Wife

SOME who were Abandoned - Collected to be Raised for Slavery, Prostitution
 Into this SOCIETY of EXTREME HARSHNESS to CHILDREN, Paul writes

a. Delicate v. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger ESV

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. Colossians 3.21

FATHERS = word refers to both fathers and mothers

Responsibility FOCUSED on HUSBANDS and FATHERS

Provoking – Discouragement – Embittering – Exasperation > REAL PAIN

REASON > Father NOT Walk his TALK – Conflict btwn Belief and Behavior

Mother yells “Quit Whining” while SHE is Actually Whining!

Father DEMANDS Controlled Behavior when he is OUT of Control with Anger!

Christ is NOT Ruling in a Home filled with GUILT and HYPOCRISY!

WE SHOULD SERVE OUR CHILDREN AS PAUL SERVED THE CHURCH

I, Paul, myself entreat you, by the meekness and gentleness of Christ—I who am
 humble when face to face with you

2 Corinthians 10.1

"Fathers provoke their children and discourage them by saying one thing and
 doing another - by always blaming and never praising, by being inconsistent and
 unfair in discipline, and by showing favoritism in the home, by making
 promises and not keeping them, and by making light of problems that, to the
 children, are very important."
 Warren Wiersbe

80% BLACK kids in USA being Raised APART from their Fathers

60% of HISPANIC kids in USA – 50% of WHITE Children in USA

Even in HOME where MOM & DAD are PRESENT > HOW Present are They?

PARENT'S DUTY to RAISE Children – Not School, Church, AYI, or Computer

3 Sons pushing 30 – RULE – 30 Minutes SCREEN a Day, AFTER Homework!
 Friends UNLIMITED Screen Time – Heard Often – Meant we had to Give Time!
 All 3 Great Jobs > Strength: RELATE Well to PEOPLE – Not just SCREENS

b. Discipline - NURTURE THEM EMOTIONALLY AND SPIRITUALLY

v. 4 ...bring them up in *the discipline* and instruction of the Lord.

Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline will drive it far from him.
 Proverbs 22.15

The rod of correction imparts wisdom, but a child left to himself disgraces his mother.
 Proverbs 29.15

"everything in the American home is controlled by switches, except their children"
 Observation by the visiting Duke of Windsor

"God does not want parents to be so fond towards their children that they corrupt them by sparing them. Let their kindness be tempered, so as to keep them in the discipline of the Lord, and correct them when they go astray. That age requires frequent admonition and forcing with the rein, in case it should run riot."
 John Calvin

"My son, do not make light of the Lord's discipline, and do not lose heart when he rebukes you, because the Lord disciplines those he loves, and he punishes everyone he accepts as a son."...No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it"
 Hebrews 12.5-11

BIBLE FILLED WITH BAD PARENTAL EXAMPLES

King David - GREAT LEADER - TERRIBLE FATHER

High Priest Eli - FAILED TO DISCIPLINE SONS - GREAT EVIL RESULTED
 NEGLECT of Both FATHERS NEARLY RESULTED in DEFEAT of NATION

Rebekah and son Jacob - DECEIVE BLIND OLD HUSBAND - Isaac

BLESSING IS STOLEN FROM ESAU THE FIRSTBORN

JESUS SPOKE RIGHTLY ABOUT THE NATURE OF FATHERS

If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children...

Matthew 7.11

Do we ADMINISTER the LORD'S DISCIPLINE - Kind, Just, & Loving??

"When you are disciplining a child you should have first controlled yourself? ...What right do you have to say your child needs discipline when you obviously need it yourself? Self-control, the control of temper, is an essential prerequisite in the control of others"

Lloyd-Jones

Martin

MANY TIMES I have DISCIPLINED MY KIDS - I was OUT of CONTROL

...to be good parents we must have a solid understanding of our relationship with our heavenly Father...for a model and for security...Our Father is the Lord... We are not bound to the patterns of our earthly parents...Our greatest failings as parents usually result from insecurities...The things that embarrass me or make me look bad are most likely to make me mad. I too easily discipline out of a concern of me rather than out of a primary concern for my children's welfare...my wife often struggles to discipline because of the fear that a child will feel badly toward her or reject her love...anxious parents do not make good parents...Our security in our relationship with God frees us to parent for our children's good rather than for our own – giving to them our security rather than taking it from them.

Bryan Chapell

"Spare the rod and spoil the child - that is true. But beside the rod keep an apple to give him when he has done well"

Martin Luther

MOSES GIVES A CHARGE TO PARENTS

These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 6.4-6

Many Parents try and Protect Children by ISOLATION – HIDE from World

Don't GO OUT There! – Don't LOOK – CLOSE Shades – Turn Off TV

Israelites NO CHOICE > Walk thru PAGAN CANAAN – Kids would SEE All!

Moses Recommends INNOCULATION: Sickness of World overcome by Word

APPLY Word in REAL TIME – Evil cannot be ESCAPED – Can be Explained!

Word of God ANSWERS Hard Questions – Living Faith, Firm Foundation

Many So-Called Christian Kids come to BEIJING to Study – ISOLATED!

FLOCK to Bars & Clubs of Wudaoukou like MOTHS to a FLAME

FAITH was IMPOSED on Them – but NEVER INTERNALIZED

ISOLATION Enhanced APPETITE for Sin > All that HIDDEN Now Available

Mom & Dad, Pastors & Elders > On ANOTHER Continent > Now Free to Sin!

c. Development – NEGATIVE Element Discipline / POSITIVE Development

v. 4 but bring them up in the discipline and *instruction of the Lord*.

CHILDREN are like WET CEMENT - PARENTS SHAPE THEIR DESTINY

When I was a boy in my father's house, still tender...he taught me and said, "Lay hold of my words with all your heart; keep my commands and you will live."

Proverbs 4.3-6

"Children are not looking for perfect parents; but they are looking for honest parents. An honest, progressing parent is a highly infectious person"

Howard Hendricks

BASIC OBEDIENCE - PARENTS do you read the Bible? Pray? Worship?

CHILDREN DO NOT have to BECOME PRODIGALS in their TEEN YEARS

Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

Proverbs 22.6

NOT a PROMISE but a PRINCIPLE - FAITH PRINCIPLE NOT A FORMULA

GOOD PARENTS CAN HAVE CHILDREN THAT TURN OUT BAD

EX- Adam & Eve - FORGIVEN - their son Cain killed his brother Abel

BAD PARENTS CAN HAVE CHILDREN WHO TURN OUT GOOD

JOSEPH – NOBLE Son > Father Jacob was a CHEAT

SOMETIME THOSE WHO ARE RAISED PROPERLY GO ASTRAY
 SOMETIMES THOSE POOR CHILDHOOD become GREAT CHRISTIANS

THESE are EXCEPTIONS – Normal Pattern - CHILD turns Out LIKE PARENT

"as the twig is bent so the tree is inclined"

BOTH BLESSING & CURSE OF GOD – Often from Generation to Generation

Luke Short was a farmer in New England turned 100 – Still Strong Body & Mind

Struck by FEAR of Dying without Knowing God – Facing JUDGMENT

Remembered Sermon heard BOY in ENGLAND – Age 15 heard John FLAVEL

Luke Short's 100th Birthday became his FIRST New Birth Day

Word of God spoken 85 years before was LIVING and ACTIVE to SAVE

“He lies a babe in grace, aged three years, who died according to nature, aged 106”
 Luke Short's Tombstone

Luke Short's Long Life is Reminder as we Think of OUR FAMILIES

God's Word does Not Return Void; His Arm is Not too Short to Save

“The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off--for all whom the Lord our God will call.”
 Acts 2.39

EPHESIANS 6 1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),

3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers,

do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.