

"Families in Christ"

Colossians 3.20,21

Colossians > Paul EXTOLLING Wonders of Jesus – Crucified & Risen
Sovereign God over UNIVERSE > Cares for EVERY FAMILY on Earth
“He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together” Coloss 1.17

Important ORDER of Paul’s Teaching in Colossians

1st > Most Important Relationship – TO Jesus: Crucified / Risen

2nd to HIS Church – Together, Risen w Christ – Seek things Above

3rd for SOME >> MARRIAGE > Place of LOVE & JOY

4th for Some >> Gift of Children >> PARENTING

Greatest ETERNAL Gift Parent give Child > WALK w/& Worship Jesus

Greatest Earthly Gift Parent give Child/ Loving Relationship w/ Spouse

Model Love, Forgiveness, Intimacy > for Future and their FAITH

1. Place of Blessing - FOR ENTIRE FAMILY

a. in Church

1 EXAMPLE of Xtian in NT NOT part of local church > Thief on Cross

Every Xtian See NT > Every Blessing God gives LINKED w/ Churches

Most RELIABLE Location consistently receive God’s Blessing

Local church where Jesus is LORD & the Scriptures are STANDARD

PAUL Not tell PARENTS to TELL KIDS > SPEAKS DIRECTLY

v. 20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

IN OTHER WORDS – CHILDREN were in Church

INSTRUCTION to CHILDREN was not at BEGINNING -

LISTENED thru the READING of 3 CHAPTERS so far...

Did Children UNDERSTAND it All? Do YOU? I Don’t! GOD’S Word!

Kids/Adults different Learning Styles & Abilities / Need Word of God >

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

Int'l churches Served for last 25 yrs – People from over 100 Nations
 Children's Programs during Service for age 10 and UNDER
 10 yrs old > Class "How to Understand the Sermon" > then IN Big church
 Kids were ENGAGING with Word > esp when Parents Coached them
 Youth Program – SAME Time as church morning worship / Never Went
 High % NEVER Connect w/ Church – Graduate: Youth Group & God!

b. in the Lord v. 1 "Children, obey...for this pleases the Lord"

Paul CONSIDERS them CHRISTIANS - favorite descript "in X"
 God calls People of any Age, Race, Creed, Education, Background
 For God does not show favoritism. Romans 2.11

Jesus entered Temple on Holy Week - MANY ADULTS SILENT
 Religious Leaders 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

When KIDS Misbehave – Need to Do what Parents Need to Do
 REPENT of their SIN - PRAY & READ WORD OF GOD - Restored
 God's Healing SOLUTION for ALL Ages!

2. Path of Blessing

KZ led KZ Muslims to X – Great JOY! 1st thing MANY Did? Quit Job

Wanted SERVE Jesus FULL Time: Only Problem!?! GOTTA EAT!?!

KZ started local churches > Saved, Excited, Ready to Serve: Unemployed

Saved to Serve > Live for Christ > In Family, School, Job, Society

Duties stay Same: God Transforms in X turn from Drudgery to Delight

v. 17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

v. 20 "Children, obey your parents"

To OBEY Parents is to Obey GOD / To DISOBEY - DISOBEY GOD

5th Comm - HINGE between 2 TABLES of Law 1) God & 2) man

1-4 Love for God > No Other god, No Idols, Name of God, Sabbath

6-10 Love Neighbor: Murder, Adultery, Stealing, False Witness, Coveting

5th in MIDDLE > Love for Closest Neighbors / Parents > Love for God

PARENTS – 1st and Most Impt Representative of God to KIDS

Paul gives Children Commands, appeals to their Intelligence & Reason

Confirms their Value, Abilities, & Place in Church = to all Adults

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

Not be CHILDISH > Child-LIKE = TRUST, DEPENDENCY

"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

3. Power used to Bless

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

FATHERS = Responsibility FOCUSED on HUSBANDS and FATHERS

Bible teaches MEN should be LEADERS in the HOME and the CHURCH

Sadly, hard to FIND Examples of Good Father > Even in BIBLE

King David - GREAT LEADER - TERRIBLE FATHER

High Priest Eli – Failed to Discipline sons - Great EVIL Resulted

JACOB = Cheater > led Family of 12 Disfunctional SONS

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

When Paul wrote THIS Letter to Colossae in 1st C Roman Empire

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

Into this Society of Extreme HARSHNESS to CHILDREN, Paul writes

If NO Christianity > No Children's Rights > Jesus sets Free Literally

Justice, Compassion, Human Rights > All ROOTED in Scriptures

Best way to CHANGE Culture > thru FAMILY

Parents impart VALUES, LANGUAGE, BELIEFS, STANDARDS

DEVIL wants to Make Followers Too – Jesus says "kill, steal, destroy!"

Family Pt of Spear – Attacks Conception - Culture - Confusion

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

Provoking – Discouragement – Embittering – Exasperation > REAL PAIN

Big REASON > Father NOT Walk his TALK – Inconsistent, Hypocritical

Father DEMANDS Controlled Behavior when OUT of Control w/ Anger!

Ashamed to Say I am GUILTY of this in Raising My Sons

"Strong fathers sometimes bemoan the fact that their children are so lacking in self-confidence, when they use their strength to crush and undermine them." John Woodhouse

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

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

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

Parent's Duty to Raise Children Not Grans, School, Church, or Computer

...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

In Deuteronomy 6, the Mandate is clearly given to PARENTS...

4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise" Deuteronomy 6.4-7

4 SHEMA "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one.

National Anthem God's Covenant People – Stand on Monotheistic Creed

5 Truth in HEAD > Captures HEART > Love the Lord your God w ALL

6 Knowing God MUST be Both – Intellectual AND Experiential

TEACHING Others to Follow STARTS w/ Following God OURSELVES

DO as I SAY – NOT as I DO > Not Convincing for our Kids > Anyone!

Walk the Walk BEFORE You Talk the Talk

"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

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 says INNOCULATION: Sickness of World overcome by Word

Apply Word in Real Time: Evil cannot be ESCAPED – Can be Explained!

v. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

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

Churched Kids many Nations came to BEIJING to Study – ISOLATED!
 Sent PHOTO of them w Me Pastor: Photo of Church, Bulletin, 1st Sunday
 Come back 9 Months Later Graduation SUNDAY > Collect Gifts GAVE

Been in Bars & Clubs in Student District > 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!
 Children 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 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 w POOR CHILDHOOD become GREAT CHRISTIANS
 Many Exceptions – Normal Pattern - CHILD turns Out LIKE PARENT
 "as the twig is bent so the tree is inclined"
 Both BLESSING & CURSE of God – Pass from Generation to Generation

Luke Short: 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: John FLAVEL

Luke Short's 103rd Birthday became is 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

Good News of Salvation > Great News for Bad Dads, Kids, Moms too...

“The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always chide, nor will he keep his anger forever. He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his steadfast love toward those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far does he remove our transgressions from us. As a father shows compassion to his children, so the Lord shows compassion to those who fear him. For he knows our frame; he remembers that we are dust.”

Psalm 103.8-14

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