

## Children and Parents

Ephesians 6:1-9

11/17/02

### Intro

- Progress at the building. First Sunday next week.
- Thank you to everyone who has helped at the building.

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Paul has been speaking to us about submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ and is giving several applications. This is all in the context of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

The application has to do with relationships; first, within marriage, and now between children and parents and finally employees and supervisors.

We begin in these verses with children and parents. Why does Paul address this subject? Because the Holy Spirit is applied to all areas of our lives. The heart of Christ is for all relationships.

Remember that Paul is stressing how we should be submitted one to another. Can a husband submit to his wife and yet lead? Yes, by placing her concerns above his own.

Can a parent submit to his/her children and yet lead? Yes, by caring enough to do it God's way.

Here are some principles that give us an insight into parents and children.

### **I. Children obey your parents in the Lord.**

#### A. In the Lord.

- Paul is teaching us that children should be motivated by their relationship to the Lord to do that is best for them.

#### B. Because this is right.

- This is the proper order of things. To have this out of order is to create chaos in the whole community.
- Unfortunately, there are many examples of this very thing. When parents are afraid of their children, it can't bring good results.

**Illus – Many are afraid of their children not loving them so they give in to their wishes. This is out of order.**

**I remember once when one of our children was 7 or 8 and said, “I don't love you!!.” My response, “You don't have to love me, but you do have to obey me.”**

- The word “obey” in Greek means to stand under, meaning that the proper order of things is for children to be under their parents authority.

#### C. Honor your father and mother

- To honor is to give obedience from the heart.
- This means not speaking poorly about your parents to your friends.

**Illus – The honor should never stop, even as children get older and become adults.**

#### D. This is the first commandment with a promise.

- Paul is referring to the Ten Commandments; this is the first commandment that also carries a promise.

**– That it may be well with you.**

- Rebellion and even resistance slams the door on learning and growing.
- With that attitude, life will be much more difficult.

**Illus – The school of hard knocks is the most painful way to learn!!**

**- That you may live long on the earth.**

- That's because if you don't obey your parents they may shorten your life.

**Illus – as Bill Cosby once said, “I brought you into this world, and I'll take you out!”**

- Paul means that anger and bitterness, which are the roots of rebellion, shorten our lives.

## II. Fathers do not provoke your children to wrath.

- A. This is the point of mutually submitting.
  - We should honor and respect our children.

**Illus – I believe this is one of the greatest keys to parenting. To honor the Lord by treating our children with honor and respect.**

- B. Notice that he addresses fathers.
  - Paul is saying that fathers play a vital role in raising children.

**Illus – the fathers should be involved from an early age (why not even help with the diapers?) I even wanted to help deliver the children.**

C. There is a balance between harshness and indulgence.

- In the early 1900's the theme was harshness, now it's indulgence.
- Both have tragic consequences.

**Illus – harshness keeps children small, and indulgence makes them puffed up.**

D. Bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- These are the two keys to good parenting and Paul is saying that this is to be done in the Lord.
- Instruction is training them in the **principles** of the Lord in the normal events of life.

## III. Keys to a good and godly parenting.

1. Be a good example, but when you make a mistake admit it.
2. Be consistent. Build boundaries that are fair and stick to them.
3. We need to get their hearts. If we focus on outward obedience only, then we are teaching them not to have a heart for the Lord; that all God wants is behavior.
4. Teach the law of consequences. Give them choices that teach responsibility for themselves.
5. Pray for them regularly.

Conclusion

**The principles of God are applied to every area of our lives and are the way to great blessing in our families.**