

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Children & Parents
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 12**

I. Introduction

A. TURN TO Passage to read...

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

II. REVIEW

A. God's PRIORITY of PARENTING

1. Scripture places HUGE weight on Parenting and the consequences of NOT parenting Properly
2. DOWNWARD SPIRAL of a sinful life in Romans 1, what is the FINAL STATE of the UNSAVED PERSON when GIVEN OVER to the FULLNESS of their sin?

Ro 1:28 And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper, ..., 30 slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, disobedient to parents, ...; 32 and although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them.

2 Ti 3:1 But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. 2 For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy,...

- a) We laugh at "disobedient to parents"!
(1) Why? We are DULLED by all the

disobedience we see!

(2)AND – we do NOT PLACE the SAME PRIORITY on FAMILY that GOD DOES!

(3)God puts that SIN in the SAME list as ALL those OTHER SINS!

(4)We DO NOT UNDERSTAND, ACCEPT and EXPECT the same thing of family that God does

b) We smile at that phrase INSTEAD – it OUGHT TO TRIGGER in us that something is wrong

c) SOMETHING IS WRONG with our understanding and priority of family

d) Why don't I see it like Him?

e) Why do I smile when He calls it SERIOUS breakdown in the fabric of life???

3. God was SO serious about Child Rearing that

a) He put child obedience in the 10 commandments!

[Ex 20:12](#) “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

b) He put child DISOBEDIENCE into the Law of Moses!

[Ex 21:15](#) “He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. [...17](#) “He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.

[Dt 21:18](#) “If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them, [19](#) then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown. [20](#) “They shall say to the elders of his city, ‘This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.’ [21](#) “Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear.

4. PRINCIPLE: No way to PERPETUATE GODLINESS / RIGHTEOUSNESS without OBEDIENCE

B. God's PREPARATION of ISRAEL THROUGH Parenting!

1. How Did God EXPECT Israel to PREPARE and PRODUCE this WITNESS?
2. A: Deuteronomy 6:1 – The Great Shema

3. God's PREPARATION and REMEMBRANCE

- a) Dedicate
- b) Disciple
- c) Do
- d) Discuss
- e) Go back to 1!

4. DEDICATE: Listen, Decide, dedicate your life to God – Towards God (Deut 6:4-6)

5. DISCIPLE: Towards your family

- a) Parental communication

[Dt 6:7](#) You shall teach them diligently to your sons ...

(1)How are God's truths to be communicated?

(2)In speech

[Dt 6:7](#) You shall teach them diligently to your sons 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 up.

(a)They were to be constantly speaking about the things of God.

(3)In symbols

[Dt 6:8](#) "You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

(a)symbolized in what they wore.

(4)In surroundings

Dt 6:9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

(a) children were to see the law of God written all over the house.

6. DO - And – ALL of this teaching IS to BE APPLIED in the SITUATIONS of LIFE! (6:10-19)

Dt 6:10 “Then it shall come about when the LORD your God brings you into the land which He swore to your fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, to give you, great and splendid cities which you did not build,...[Goes on to describe how they are to live in this land and obey God]

7. DISCUSS: So – you’ve lived it YET your SON sees HOW different you live from the world...

20 “When your son asks you in time to come, saying, ‘What *do* the testimonies and the statutes and the judgments *mean* which the LORD our God commanded you?’

8. Back to Disciple...

21 then you shall say to your son, ‘We were slaves to Pharaoh in Egypt, and the LORD brought us from Egypt with a mighty hand. ...’

9. **DEDICATE - DISCIPLE – DO – DISCUSS → DEDICATE / DISCIPLE...**

C. God’s PROVERBS for Parenting

1. Proverbs = heart of teaching to parents and their children
2. How does Proverbs TEACH parents to RAISE a child?
 - a) DISCIPLE & DISCIPLINE!
 - b) Disciple = teach / instruct / give him my words / show him my ways / give him my wisdom...
 - (1) Teach and Show
 - c) DISCIPLINE = Reward Obedience + Punish Disobedience!
 - d) Reward: Prov 8:32 Blessed are you if you keep my ways (says the father)

- e) How does Proverbs teach punishment? THE ROD!
– SPANK THEM!
- f) Prov 23:14 gives the ULTIMATE purpose of the Rod:
[Pr 23:14](#) You shall strike him with the rod And rescue his soul from Sheol.
- g) Prov 22:15 gives the NEGATIVE SIDE of the Rod's effect: REMOVES FOOLISHNESS
[Pr 22:15](#) Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of discipline will remove it far from him.
- h) Prov 29:15 gives the POSITIVE side of the Rod's effect: along with reproof, gives wisdom (rod softens / opens the ears!)
[Pr 29:15](#) The rod and reproof give wisdom, ...
[Pr 23:13](#) Do not hold back discipline from the child, Although you strike him with the rod, he will not die.
- i) Proverbs 19:18 gives a WARNING to parents – Don't WAIT to discipline your child!
[Pr 19:18](#) Discipline your son while there is hope, And do not desire his death.

D. What's the BOTTOM LINE on parenting from the OT?

1. DISCIPLER
2. DISCIPLINE

III. Submission of Children (Eph 6:1-3)

[Eph 6:1](#) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

A. KEYS to Eph 6:1-4: Presuppositions / Assumptions / Let's just get this out of the way once and for all!

1. Children are born sinners – little reprobates

[Ps 51:5](#) Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.

Ge 8:21 ... the intent of man's heart is evil from his youth;

Job 15:14 "What is man, that he should be pure, Or he who is born of a woman, that he should be righteous?"

Job 25:4 "How then can a man be just with God? Or how can he be clean who is born of woman?"

2. Parents **CANNOT** save their children / guarantee their salvation

Job 14:4 "Who can make the clean out of the unclean? No one!"

Jn 6:44 "No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day."

B. Requirements of Submission = Action + Attitude = Obedience + Honor

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise),

1. Children,

- a) Remember ALL Children under Parental Control
- b) NOT JUST YOUNG CHILDREN
- c) Greek: "The children..." = Paul is moving to a new group AND the implication is that
 - (1) These children were ABLE to understand this teaching
 - (2) Were they in the audience? DON'T KNOW!
 - (3) Didn't have to be – Parents could teach them this
- d) Going to see by next phrase – OLD ENOUGH to UNDERSTAND
 - (1) Obedience is obedience to Christ
 - (2) Understand what "honor" means – what it means to have the right attitude!
 - (3) SO – this is obedience by children OLD

ENOUGH to CHOOSE to obey / disobey!

2. Action of Submission: OBEDIENCE:

obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- a) “obey” = VERY STRONG COMMAND
- b) CHILDREN, CONTINUALLY, ABSOLUTELY obey your parents!
- c) Literally = under + hear = hear under the authority of someone else
- d) Bible uses the word “hear” to mean obedience
- e) Our culture = In one ear and out the other!
 - (1) “I heard you, BUT you didn’t tell me I had to do it!”
 - (2) NOT THE BIBLICAL MEANING of HEAR
- f) Hence – proper translation is OBEY!
- g) Who do you obey? “YOUR PARENTS” (= common word for parents)
- h) How do you obey? “in the Lord, for this is right”
- i) “in the Lord” = In connection to / in communion to” Christ
 - (1)= You are ULTIMATELY OBEYING CHRIST
 - (a) “I obey my parents because the Lord expects me to!
 - (b) The FRUIT of your relationship WITH CHRIST WILL BE THROUGH your parents!
 - (c) Christ will BLESS you, GIVE you peace, etc. THROUGH YOUR PARENTS and FAMILY LIFE!
 - (d) NOTE – Paul is specific – this is TO CHRIST!
 - (i) Consistent with Eph 1:3 – God gave us everything in Christ

- (ii) Consistent with learning that their salvation will ultimately be THROUGH Christ
- j) What is the obvious application here to parents?
- (1)A: You have to teach your children Christ!
 - (2)The MOST WONDERFUL GIFT you can give your CHILD is a KNOWLEDGE of the PERSON of CHRIST!
 - (3)How do you do that?
 - (4)TEACH THEM THE GOSPELS!
 - (a)Did God make children to like stories? YES
 - (b)Which do you think is easier for children to learn – Gospels or Epistles? ☺
 - (c)TEACH them OBEDIENCE
 - (i) Through the EXAMPLE of CHRIST!
 - (ii) Through the OBEDIENCE of Christ!
 - (d)Teach the story of the birth of Christ
 - (i) The story of Luke 2 and teaching in the Temple
 - (ii) YET the obedience to Parents of Luke 2
 - (iii) Read them ALL the passages of Jesus' LOVE FOR CHILDREN!
 - (e)THEN when you get to the teachings of Christ – children know HE WAS A CHILD JUST LIKE THEM
 - (f) THEY LEARN THROUGH STORY – the STORY of CHRIST!
 - (5)Do you see what I'm saying? The GOSPELS are the STORY BOOK for CHILDREN to LEARN CHRIST
 - (a)Learn His life starting like theirs
 - (b)Learn His love for them
 - (c)Learn His obedience for His parents

- (d) Learn His teaching to THEM and to YOU!
- (e) THEN it will help them OBEY YOU “[in the Lord](#)”!!!
- k) “[for this is right](#)” = two things!
 - (1)= it IS RIGHT BY THE LORD = it is RIGHTEOUS
 - (a) Col 3:20 “[this is well-pleasing to the Lord](#)”
 - (2)= it is NATURALLY RIGHT = it is the natural right design of families that children obey parents!
 - (3) We so often focus on God’s commands – that we forget God’s natural design of things!
 - (4) We DO talk about the natural consequences of sin
 - (a) Sexual sin leads to sexual disease
 - (b) Alcoholism destroys the liver and body, etc
 - (5) BUT DON’T FORGET that there are NATURAL, POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES
 - (a) To Living according to the natural order that God created!
 - (b) Live WITHIN God’s natural design and you will have POSITIVE CONSEQUENCES
 - (6) AND – live within GOD’S COMMANDS and you will have ADDITIONAL BLESSINGS of GOD!
- l) Paul writes this exact same thing to the Colossians:
[Col 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.](#)
 - (1) Slightly different phrasing BUT EXACT SAME COMMAND!

3. [Attitude of Submission: HONOR](#)

[2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER \(which is the first](#)

commandment with a promise),

- a) First thing to Note – Paul quotes the OT!
- b) Guess where he's quoting from?! RIGHT – 10 Commandments
- c) However, He's using a Moses' statement from Deut 5:16 WHICH EXPANDS on the 5th Commandment
- d) SO, it IS the 5th commandment EXPANDED

Ex 20:12 "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Dt 5:16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

- e) What's the 2nd Requirement of Children? HONOR Your Father and Mother!

(1) Honor =

(a) From root = to estimate, fix the value

(b) = evaluate that person accurately / honestly AND treat them with respect, reverence, kindness, courtesy and obedience

(2) Honor > obedience!

(3) Honor = RESPECTFUL obedience

(4) = attitude of respect / esteem THAT is BEHIND obedience

(5) Every see obedience without the right attitude? YES!

(6) One author: "It is the form love assumes toward those who are placed above us by God"

- f) THEN - the comment in parenthesis

(which is the first commandment with a promise),

(1) Obvious this commandment isn't the FIRST COMMANDMENT!

- (2) And – It's not the FIRST COMMANDMENT with a promise! (2nd commandment is)
- (3) Can't really be dogmatic on what Paul is saying with regards to "first"
 - (a) CAN SAY – it is NOT CRITICAL to the interpretation
 - (b) What is CRITICAL is that THERE IS A PROMISE that goes along with KEEPING THE COMMANDMENT!
- (4) Personally, I think the best explanation is: IT IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT with a SPECIFIC PROMISE
 - (a) 2nd Commandment is dealing with large numbers of people and is in general
 - (b) 5th commandment is specific to EACH CHILD
- g) Of course, the question always comes up – UNTIL WHAT AGE do you OBEY and HONOR!???
 - (1) Talk about OBEY first
 - (a) Remember this is a very strong command
 - (b) Literally – do EVERYTHING your PARENTS WAY...
 - (c) BUT Scripture OBVIOUSLY teaches that ADULTS are RESPONSIBLE directly to the LORD!
 - (d) = ALL of the commands in the BIBLE!
 - (e) So, strict obedience ends with adulthood
 - (2) Scripture OBVIOUSLY teaches that MARRIAGE CREATES a NEW relationship responsibility!
 - (a) Wives SUBMIT to HUSBANDS – not to PARENTS!
 - (b) Husbands PRIMARILY care for WIVES –

not parents!

(c) Hence, strict obedience ends with adulthood

(3) The APPLICATION we make of ALL the PRINCIPLES of SCRIPTURE is this –

(a) PURE 100% obedience is EXPECTED while they are under your control

(i) = under your roof

(ii) = under your financial control

(iii) Kinda like calling them dependents on your tax return!

(b) In our society = through High School

(c) Most likely THOUGH COLLEGE

(d) But – there are grey areas and you have to go case-by-case

(4) For instance – not all kids go to college!

(5) OR – some young adults still live at home but work and support themselves

(6) So, it might be when they move out and get a job / place of their own

(7) Some parents try to control daughters and not let them move out until they marry – keep them under their control

(a) NT doesn't teach that!

(8) GENERALLY – you will find that LEGALISTIC / FEARFUL / CONTROLLING parents

(a) Go to the OT and try to force OT physical separation in a NT world

(b) Try to OVER CONTROL children

h) Remember – WE RAISE our CHILDREN to TURN THEM OVER TO CHRIST!

(1) Some are ready earlier than others

(2) IF you have parented properly, you will be INCREASINGLY RELEASING YOUR CHILDREN to CHRIST even when still at home!

(3) You will be allowing them to make independent decisions and you will monitor their progress

(4) You WILL STEP IN and EXERT CONTROL when NECESSARY!

4. Let's talk about the HONOR side! When does that end? A: NEVER!

a) Honor is an ATTITUDE that the Bible expects you to ALWAYS have toward your PARENTS!

b) In fact, Bible teaches that you are the primary care taker of your parents IF they need it!

[1 Ti 5:4](#) but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety (godliness, godly responsibility) in regard to their own family and to make some return (recompense / repayment) to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God.

c) Children / Grandchildren in Christian families have a GODLY RESPONSIBILITY to help ELDERLY PARENTS

(1) IT is A FORM of REPAYMENT for what they did for you!

(2) You OWE THEM A DEBT for what they did for you!

(3) BOTH physically and spiritually!

d) This fits the general principal that Paul teaches in Rom 13:7

[Ro 13:7](#) Render to all what is due them: tax to whom tax *is due*; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor.

(1) God teaches in Eph 6:2 that your parents are
DUE HONOR

(2) SO GIVE IT TO THEM – ALWAYS!

5. BTW – As with everything else this was a FORM of SIN amongst the Pharisees! THEY WOULDN'T HELP their parents as the LAW commanded!
6. Turn to Mark 7!

Mk 7:5 The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” 6 And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME. 7 ‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’ 8 “Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.” 9 He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition. 10 “For Moses said, ‘HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER’; and, ‘HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH’; 11 but you say, ‘If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given to God),’ 12 you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother; 13 thus invalidating the word of God by your tradition which you have handed down; and you do many things such as that.”

- a) Jesus uses the example of dishonor to parents to show the Pharisees that they had TRADITIONS in PLACE that BROKE the LAW of GOD!
- b) What were they doing? They didn't want to help parents because it would dilute their wealth
- c) BUT the OT taught that honoring included taking care of them in old age
- d) SO, they had to have a “righteous” way out of this

dilemma.

e) In Numbers, Moses taught

Nu 30:2 “If a man makes a vow to the LORD, or takes an oath to bind himself with a binding obligation, he shall not violate his word; he shall do according to all that proceeds out of his mouth.

f) The parents would come to the son for help and he would Say, OH SORRY, ALL I HAVE IS “CORBAN” (Hebrew word for gift set apart for God!)– I’ve PROMISED GOD ALL that I HAVE and CANNOT BREAK MY VOW TO HELP YOU!

g) Jesus is telling them – YOU’VE CREATED a TRADITION THAT BREAKS GOD’S WORD! –

h) YOU are IN SIN with your TRADITIONS!

i) Point here – Jesus used “honor” of parents as a serious responsibility that we are not to DUCK OUT OF!

C. I'd say that the teaching to children is VERY STRAIGHT FORWARD

1. = SUBMISSION to the Lord through the Parents
2. = ACTION of Submission: OBEDIENCE
3. = ATTITUDE of Submission: HONOR

D. Results of Submission = Quality of Life + Quantity of Life

3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

1. What is the Promise at the end of V.2? A: V.3 as Paul continues to quote the OT passage from Deut 5:16

2. Remember the two OT verses

Ex 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.

Dt 5:16 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.

a) Notice: In v.3 Paul removed the REFERENCE to the Land of Canaan to ADAPT them to the NT!

3. Remember too – the results that are about to come ARE NOT GUARANTEES.

a) They are general truths for children in general

b) Some obedient, parent-honoring children never make it to the age of 5!

c) CANNOT blame God for breaking a promise

d) CANNOT blame any person for TAKING AWAY something God intended for them!

e) God is ABSOLUTELY sovereign over life and death – Even the best of children may go home “early” by our estimation.

4. SO THAT = PURPOSE

a) Paul now gets to the PURPOSE of all this obedience

b) PURPOSE to the CHILDREN THEMSELVES

5. QUALITY OF LIFE:

IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU,

a) = Permanent well-being in the full Christian sense – to be under God’s constant blessing

b) = quality of life blessing!

c) You will have GOOD life of GOOD THINGS

d) Will this BE a contrast to your childhood? NO!

(1) You have already learned and practiced OBEDIENCE

(2) You’ve already DEVELOPED an ATTITUDE of HONOR

(3) Hence, you are not SELFISH, self-focused,

self-seeking

(4) God is saying – WITH THESE ATTITUDES,
your will for your life and MY WILL for you
life will be the same

(5) BLESSING you will be an easy thing to give
you!

6. QUANTITY of LIFE:

AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

- a) = Long, full Life on Earth – NOT cut short by God
- b) Easiest way to understand this is by contrast!
- c) IF you didn't honor your parents = DISOBEDIENT / DISRESPECTFUL, what did the OT teach?
- d) A: DEATH! = NOT LIVING LONG on the EARTH!
- e) BUT – interesting that the promised blessing of LONGEVITY is not given anywhere else in the NT but to Children who obey and honor their parents!

E. Why would God make such a promise?

F. Why did God take the lives of disobedient children in the OT?

G. A: Obedient Children are at the HEART and core of

- 1. All relationships!
- 2. Obedient children are at the HEART of godly families
- 3. Godly families are the heart of the godly church
- 4. Godly families are the heart of society
- 5. Obedient children grow up to be obedient to God and, hence, to churches, to society, etc.

H. Disobedient Children – DESTROY and grow up to DESTROY!

Pr 10:1 The proverbs of Solomon. A wise son makes a father glad, But a foolish son is a grief to his mother.

Pr 17:21 He who sires a fool does so to his sorrow, And

the father of a fool has no joy.

Pr 17:25 A foolish son is a grief to his father And bitterness to her who bore him.

Pr 19:13 A foolish son is destruction to his father, And the contentions of a wife are a constant dripping.

Pr 19:26 He who assaults *his* father *and* drives *his* mother away Is a shameful and disgraceful son.

I. BL– How does *this* APPLY to EPH 6?

1. What is the theme of Ephesians? UNITY in the Body of Christ!
2. What is the Key to UNITY – Obeying God’s word – Living His walk – “walk in a manner worthy!”
3. IF Children ARE NOT RAISED to OBEY / SUBMIT to authority – Parents and God’s – THEN there will be NO UNITY in the Church!
4. Everyone will be doing their own thing – living in selfishness?
5. What is the ESSENCE of Godly parenting?
REPLACING SELFISHNESS with SUBMISSION to GOD!