

**Marriage & Family God's Way:
Children & Parents
Eph 5:15-6:4 Part 13**

I. Introduction

A. "National Organization of Non-Parents"?

1. = Married Couples who CHOOSE Not have children and FORMED an organization around this choice!
2. Seems they couldn't attract enough financial support – shutdown after 10 years!
3. BUT they had some interesting statistics done...
4. Top 5 reasons "very important" for not having children:
 - a) "having children reduces your ability to do what you want when you want to do it,"
 - b) "caring for a child is a heavy responsibility,"
 - c) "having children intrudes on the relationship with your spouse,"
 - d) "spouse does not want children," and
 - e) "having children is financially expensive."
5. BUT – at least these people are honest – I don't want children and I'm not going to have children!

B. How many parents today HAVE CHILDREN and yet REFUSE the RESPONSIBILITY to RAISE THEM – you wonder why they had them in the first place!

1. Both Parents work
2. Both Parents keep all of their hobbies and clubs and whatever
3. Kids are raised by TV, Internet, Video Games, Peers, Schools, etc.!
4. Remember all those statistics from a few weeks ago? !!!

C. But what does the Bible say about Children?

1. Children are GIVEN BY GOD! – a GIFT!

a) Eve – the very first mother knew it

Ge 4:1 Now the man had relations with his wife Eve, and she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and she said, “I have gotten a manchild with *the help of the LORD.*”

Ge 4:25 Adam had relations with his wife again; and she gave birth to a son, and named him Seth, for, *she said*, “God has appointed me another offspring in place of Abel, for Cain killed him.”

b) Hannah knew it!

1 Sa 1:19 Then they arose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD, and returned again to their house in Ramah. And Elkanah had relations with Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. 20 It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son; and she named him Samuel, *saying*, “Because I have asked him of the LORD.”

2. Children are a GIFT and a REWARD from the LORD!

Ps 127:3 Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.

3. Children are a source of Joy

Ps 127:4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one’s youth. 5 How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them; They will not be ashamed When they speak with their enemies in the gate.

Ps 113:9 He makes the barren woman abide in the house As a joyful mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Pr 23:24 The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, And he who sires a wise son will be glad in him.

D. BUT – they are only a source of Joy – IF YOU RAISE THEM GOD’S WAY!

1. That’s why we need to STUDY BIBLICAL PARENTING!

2. Disobedient Children – DESTROY and grow up to DESTROY!
 - a) They are a GRIEF and BITTERNESS to their MOTHER (Prov 10:1,17:25)
 - b) They are a SORROW and a GRIEF to their FATHER who has NO JOY because of them (Prov 17:21, 25)
 - c) They are DESTRUCTION to their father (Prov 19:13)
 - d) They are shameful and disgraceful to their parents (Prov 19:26)

E. My experience with Christian parents – THEY DON'T HAVE A CLUE how to raise godly children

1. Most that I know – DON'T DO ANY CHRISTIAN ANYTHING WITH THEM
2. Don't TEACH THEM, Don't PRAY WITH THEM
3. Don't DISCIPLE THEM
4. ASSUMPTION – IF you provide the right ENVIRONMENT, they will TURN OUT OK!
 - a) That is what is called “determinism”
 - b) A GOOD ENVIRONMENT turns out A GOOD CHILD
 - c) Shelter / protect them from the world + have a NICE HOME ENV = you will have a good child!
 - d) IOW – Simply KEEP THEM HOME and they will turn out OK – In fact – no matter what, they will turn out better than kids exposed to the world (i.e. public education, etc.)
5. What is wrong with that attitude? A: Children are BORN SINNERS with a SERIOUS HEART PROBLEM
6. God says YOU HAVE TRAIN and DISCIPLINE them HIS WAY in order for them to stand a chance of turning out right!

F. What we are going to see is that PARENTING is AN ACTIVE, ALWAYS, COMMANDED ACTIVITY that TAKES BIBLICAL PREPARATION and KNOWLEDGE!

1. **ACTIVE** = No passive parents from God's perspective! YOU HAVE TO DO IT
2. **ALWAYS** = CONTINUAL ACTIVITY– never a break
3. **COMMANDED** = God expects you to do it!
4. **BIBLICAL PREPARATION & KNOWLEDGE**
 - a) = You MUST be a GODLY PERSON
 - b) = You MUST learn GOD'S WAY of PARENTING

G. TURN TO Eph 6:1 to read...

H. Let's dig into our passage...

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

A. 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

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) How do you obey? "[in the Lord, for this is right](#)"
- d) "[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
- e) 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)TEACH them OBEDIENCE
 - (i) Through the EXAMPLE of CHRIST!
 - (ii) Through the OBEDIENCE of Christ!
 - (c)Teach the story of the birth of Christ
 - (i) The story of Luke 2 and teaching in the Temple

- (ii) + the obedience to Parents of Luke 2
- (iii) Read them ALL the passages of Jesus' LOVE FOR CHILDREN!
- (d) THEN when you get to the teachings of Christ – children know HE WAS A CHILD JUST LIKE THEM
- (e) 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”!!!](#)
- f) [“for this is right”](#) = two things!
 - (1)= it IS RIGHT BY THE LORD = it is RIGHTEOUS
 - (2)= it is NATURALLY RIGHT = it is the natural right design of families that children obey parents!

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

[2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER \(which is the first commandment with a promise\),](#)

- a) **RIGHT FROM THE 10 COMMANDMENTS**
- b) However, He's using a Moses' statement from Deut 5:16 WHICH EXPANDS on the 5th Commandment [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.

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

(1) Honor = From root = to estimate, fix the value

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

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

d) THEN - the comment in parenthesis

(which is the first commandment with a promise),

(1) Debated phrase: Personally, I think the best explanation is: IT IS THE FIRST COMMANDMENT with a SPECIFIC PROMISE - specific to EACH CHILD

4. Of course, the question always comes up – UNTIL WHAT AGE do you OBEY and HONOR!???

a) Talk about OBEY first

(1) very strong command = do EVERYTHING your PARENTS WAY...

(2) BUT Scripture OBVIOUSLY teaches that ADULTS are RESPONSIBLE directly to the LORD!

(3) So, strict obedience ends with adulthood

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

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

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

5. 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. 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

C. 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. Remember -- 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!
2. SO THAT = PURPOSE of all this obedience

3. 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) You will have GOOD life of GOOD THINGS

4. 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!

D. Why would God make such a promise?

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

F. 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.

III. NEW: Requirements of Parents

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

A. Fathers,

1. With this word, every mother breathes a sigh of relief! - THEY ARE HIS PROBLEM!
2. I mean – how often have us dads come home to “you won’t believe what YOUR SON did at school today – YOU’RE going to have to deal with him!”
3. Q: IS Paul ONLY speaking to Fathers in the raising of children?
4. A: NO, with QUALIFICATIONS!
 - a) When we started this series – mentioned several IMPORTANT threads through this whole passage
 - b) ONE– CENTRALITY of the Husband / Father
 - (1)Wives Submit TO HUSBANDS
 - (2)HUSBANDS love their wives
 - (3)FATHERS in this verse
 - (4)Masters of slaves = husbands (context was household slaves)

5. SO – FIRST – the FATHER is PRIMARY
 - a) Context demands it
 - b) The Greek WORD is the word for Father
 - c) And – we know from our marriage teaching – Husband is Head of the WIFE and, hence, HEAD of the HOUSE / FAMILY
 - d) Husband / Father WILL ANSWER FIRST to CHRIST for the RESULTS of HOUSEHOLD!
6. BUT – the immediate context PULLS in the WIFE
 - a) Look at verses 1-3
[Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER ...](#)
 - b) Paul is teaching that BOTH PARENTS HAVE AUTHORITY over the CHILDREN that children must obey and honor.
7. Q: What's the obvious conclusion here that is CONSISTENT with everything else we've learned?
8. Answer:
 - a) FATHER is the head of the wife and by direct implication – of the family
 - b) 5:22-24 Wife submits to the Husband = WIFE parents the children in SUBMISSION to the husband
 - c) 5:25-32 Husband loves wife as Christ loves the church = SACRIFICE & SANCTIFICATION
 - d) Sanctification = Husband is primary spiritual leader of wife and her growth to Christ-likeness
 - e) = Husband oversees her parenting and
 - (1) Ensures that what she does is godly / biblical / consistent with his application of Scripture
 - (2) helps her grow in areas where he sees she needs sanctifying

9. Application – Paul says

[Eph 6:4](#) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- a) AND – wife says in response – How do you want to do this dear? 😊
- b) IOW – Husband has the responsibility to LEARN what needs to be done and DECIDE overall APPLICATION in his household!
- c) THEN – BOTH do it together as a TEAM!
- d) CHILDREN submit to BOTH BUT LEARN that HUSBAND is THE HEAD!

10. Now look at requirements placed on parents...

11. First NOTICE the structure of 6:4 – IT IS A CONTRAST! = “[BUT](#)” in the middle

12. Paul has a NEGATIVE first then contrasted with a POSITIVE – let’s look at these as do’s and don’ts

B. DON’T: Do not provoke your children to anger

[Eph 6:4](#) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger,

1. Paul – let’s get right down to business!

- a) Fathers, I COMMAND YOU NOT TREAT your children in such a way as to BRING THEM to where they RESENT YOU!
- b) Stop raising kids that RESENT you!

2. [Provoke... to anger](#) = to rouse to wrath, exasperate = state of perpetual resentment

- a) = COMMAND
- b) = STOP Provoking (vs. DO NOT START provoking)

3. [your children](#)

- a) same word for children as used in V.1 – ALL CHILDREN UNDER your CONTROL / AUTHORITY – not just young children

4. What is Paul saying here?

- a) FIRST, we will learn BY CONTRAST what the opposite of this is – [6:4...but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.](#)

C. Talk about anger! -TWO CATEGORIES of Anger

1. Godly Anger – Righteous anger – Anger God has – guess what? NOT talking about that here!
2. Ungodly Anger – Unrighteous anger = sinful Anger

D. Unrighteous / ungodly anger comes in 3 FLAVORS...

1. Three words in Greek for Anger (in general)
 - a) See ALL THREE in Ephesians!

2. RAGE Anger: Eph 4:31

[Eph 4:31](#) Let all bitterness and wrath and anger and clamor and slander be put away from you, along with all malice.

- a) 4:31 – THUMOS (wrath in v.31) = rage, wrath (two most common words used in English Bibles)
- b) = INSTANT NUCLEAR EXPLOSION
- c) OR the result of escalating anger that doesn't get it's way and finally gets explosive
- d) NEVER tolerated for a Christian!
- e) Satan will show this rage in Rev 12:12
- f) God will shows His wrath at final judgment (Rom 2:8)
- g) BUT – never allowable for us
- h) = Road Rage, "losing it" RAGE

3. REASONED Anger: 4:26: ORGAY

[Eph 4:26](#) **BE ANGRY, AND yet DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your anger,**

- a) Root = to be puffed up, swell, excited
- b) = Anger that COMES from VIOLATING your PRINCIPLES, BELIEFS, VIEWS, EXPECTATIONS, etc.

- c) "I have a REASON to be ANGRY!"
- d) NOT Road rage – NOT instant, hot-headed anger
- e) Various authors:
 - (1) Settled conviction anger
 - (2) Anger with an element of deliberate thought
- f) BUT – remember – this CAN and MOST OFTEN is SIN!
 - (1) Your REASONS are REASONED BUT WRONG!
 - (2) Your BELIEFS are WRONG!
 - (3) "I get angry EVERY TIME SHE DOES THAT!"
 - (4) Q: Should you? A: No.
- g) I see this ANGER A LOT when SOMEONE BELIEVES you are ATTACKING a PERSON
 - (1) Criticizing them
 - (2) Insulting them
 - (3) Trying to HURT them verbally.
 - (4) THEY TAKE it PERSONALLY
 - (5) You've gotten UNDER THEIR SKIN!
 - (6) IOW – VIOLATED what they BELIEVE about themselves and they get angry!

4. RESENTMENT Anger: Eph 4:26 AND Eph 6:4

[Eph 4:26](#) BE ANGRY, AND *yet* DO NOT SIN; do not let the sun go down on your [anger](#),

[Eph 6:4](#) Fathers, [do not provoke your children to anger](#),

- a) =PAR-ORGIDZ-O = ORGAY + Preposition to INTENSIFY
- b) = Resentment, bitterness from BUILT-UP ANGER
- c) = Anger HELD ONTO / DWELT ON
- d) Hence, "provoke to anger"

- e) One author “become ugly, moody, person with root of bitterness”
- f) Only used TWICE in NT as a VERB
- g) ONCE as a NOUN! = Eph 4:26!
- h) Why do you see it in Eph 4:26
- i) A: IF you’ve not LET go of your SINFUL ANGER IMMEDIATELY after the SITUATION, it has BECOME the beginning of RESENTMENT Anger – you’ve started down the path of bitterness, resentment, long-term anger
- (1) Paul: It’s ALREADY CHANGED CATEGORIES!
- j) How does this apply to Eph 6:4?
 - (1) Children are basically helpless under your control
 - (2) IF you CONTINUALLY provoke them to anger, PAUL SAYS IT WILL TURN INTO RESENTMENT

E. What are some of the implications of this command?

1. THIS is a COMMAND – MUST DO IT
2. IT is a CONTINUOUS COMMAND – MUST STOP DOING ALWAYS
3. IT is an ACTIVE COMMAND – you control the action / you are responsible – CANNOT SAY my child is a resentful child – it just happened!
4. IT is a COMMAND to STOP → WE ALL DO IT! -
 - a) we all FAIL as PARENTS and MAKE our CHILDREN ANGRY!
 - b) SINCE we FAIL as parents = WE SIN as PARENTS
→
5. WE NEED to LEARN to ASK FORGIVENESS of our CHILDREN!
 - a) Q: have you EVER asked your CHILD for FORGIVENESS – EVER?

- b) You should have –because you have made them angry at least once!
- 6. IF you ignore this command YOU are RESPONSIBLE for your child becoming RESENTFUL
- 7. You are RESPONSIBLE for RAISING a CHILD with a MAJOR SIN PROBLEM – RESENTMENT – God will hold you accountable

IV. Application – So, how do we provoke our children to anger? (Stolen from John MacArthur’s “Fulfilled Family” Bible Study)

A. Overprotection

- 1. Smother them, fence them in, never trust them, and always wonder whether they’re telling you the truth.
- 2. Never give them an opportunity to develop independence.
- 3. In their environment, where everyone else takes certain risks and has certain opportunities, if they are compressed into a confined area, they’ll begin to resent you and become angry.
- 4. Little by little they need to face the world and learn how to deal with it.

B. Favoritism

- 1. Prefer one child over another. Isaac favored Esau over Jacob, and Rebekah favored Jacob over Esau—you may know what terrible agony that caused.
- 2. Don’t ever compare a child with his siblings. You’ll discourage him, make him angry, and break his spirit. Don’t say things such as “Why can’t you be bright like your sister? You always get C’s and she gets A’s” or “I never have to tell him twice to do anything” or “Why don’t you act like your brother?” or “I only wanted two kids; why did you have to come along?”

3. If you want to destroy your child, just make him feel inferior to everyone else in the family.

C. Pushing achievement

1. Shove your child so hard to fulfill the goals you never accomplished that you destroy him.
2. You can push so much that the child will have absolutely no sense of fulfillment; nothing is ever enough.
3. Many parents pressure their children to excel in school, sports, or other activities, and it causes them to become bitter.

D. Discouragement

1. Provoke your child to wrath by discouraging him.
2. That occurs if he's never given approval, reward, or honor; and if all you ever do is tell him what's bad, not what's good.
3. I believe, in my own life, for every time I tell my child about something he's done wrong, I ought to equalize it by telling him something he's done right. Now, sometimes you have to look hard and be creative, but find something to praise him for.
4. A child responds just as you do to reward, encouragement, and approval.

E. Failure to make sacrifices

1. Make them feel like an intrusion in your life. Children are sensitive.
2. They know what you mean when you say, "Well, we'd love to go with you, but we've got these kids, and we can't get anyone to stay with them. It's this way all the time," or, "Well, we'd like to get away, but what are we going to do with them?"
3. If you make them feel unwanted and let them know there are many things that you'd like to do but can't

because they're around, they'll soon begin to resent you.

F. Failure to allow for childishness

1. Make sure if they do anything that isn't adult, mature, and intellectual that you put them down for it.
2. Don't let them say stupid or silly things. Make sure everything they do is always perfect.
3. But on the other hand, it's exciting to just let them say what they want—even if it's dumb.
4. Don't laugh then; laugh later if you have to laugh. Let them grow and present their ridiculous ideas.

G. Neglect

1. David neglected Absalom, and Absalom became the greatest heartbreak of David's life.
2. You can't neglect your children and win.
3. A man had a ministry traveling all over the country speaking to young people's groups. One day he overheard his little boy talking across the fence to the boy next door. "Hey, can you play catch?" his son asked. His playmate replied, "Naw, I'm going to play catch with my dad." Then the preacher heard his son say, "Oh, my dad doesn't have time to play with me. He's too busy playing with other people's kids." Needless to say, my friend changed his ministry. Don't ever be too busy.

H. Withdrawing love

1. Tell them you don't love them anymore.
2. Don't ever withdraw love as a punishment.
3. You do that when you say, "Daddy won't like you if you do that." God never stops loving His children. Your child needs to know that you will never stop loving him.

I. Bitter words and cruel physical punishment

1. Take your anger out physically on your children.

2. Not only can children be battered physically, but they also can be devastated verbally.
3. Parents can destroy and discourage a child through their verbal barrage.