



## “The Christian Home”

*The Church’s Conduct*

Ephesians 6:1-4

Christian parenting is about:

### I. Investing - “Children, obey” (v. 1)

*Children must have parental :*

**A. Detection** – “obey your parents”

**B. Deflection** – “in the Lord”

**C. Direction** – “for this is right”

### II. Inspiring – “Honor thy father and Mother” (vs. 2-3)

*Children can be motivated to :*

**A. Submit** - “commandment with promise”

**B. Succeed** - “that it may be well with thee ”

**C. Survive** - “thou may live long on the earth ”

### III. Instructing - “but bring them up ” (v. 4)

*Children are reared by the parent’s :*

**A. Acceptance** – “provoke not”

**B. Adoration** – “in the nurture”

**C. Admonitions** – “admonition of the Lord ”

## Sentence Sermon:

**“Children are gifts from the Lord but also stewardships unto the Lord.”**

## Additional Verses

- *I Samuel 4:11*
- *Colossians 3:20-21*
- *Exodus 20:12*
- *Deuteronomy 5:16*
- *Galatians 3:13; 5:1*
- *Romans 8:1-4*
- *II Timothy 3:1-5, 3-171*
- *Luke 2:52*
- *Hebrews 12:6*
- *Proverbs 13:24*
- *Titus 3:10*
- *I Corinthians 10:11*

## Questions to Ponder:

- 1. Who is this passage clearly directed to? How do you think the Lord envisioned the delivery of this passage to its intended audience?
- 2. What does the phrase “this is right” emphasize?
- 3. What are the unique similarities and differences between honoring and obeying our parents?
- 4. What are some descriptive terms that would explain what “be well with thee” looks like?
- 5. Why does it say fathers in verse 4? How do parents provoke their kids?

## **Ephesians is written to the Church**

**This passage follows the section of verses of believers, Christians, ought to be much different than other folks. It follows directly after the danger of alcohol and the potential of being empowered and controlled by the filling of the Holy Spirit.**

**It is right after the reality that We ought to be thankful for all things unto God and the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ because He gives us all things we enjoy !**

**This is the context that the Christian Family Instruction comes.**

**Notice the first verse and the last verse of our text today focuses on the Lord...So should our homes and especially our child rearing.**

### **V. 1**

- Children = Pretty clear who this is addressing....But how will they hear??? The preacher ...yes today but who will remind them...any volunteers...
- Obey = “to listen” fancy greek word which means to do what they are told to do.
- Your parents = this is not to the exclusion of other adults....society does help to reinforce your desires

for your child...a church family can be so instrumental...but you are the parent...never give up the final say in your kids life.

- In the Lord = the focus for kids to obey is that this is what God wants...have them memorize scripture...bring them back to that “point of reference” as you discipline them ..

### **o ELLIE - NOTE**

- For this is right = This is how God designed kids to be reared.

### **V. 2**

- Honor = “to estimate or fix a value” different than obey but could be shown through obedience
- Thy father and mother = not just parents but these two people who have done so much for you...HOW CAN WE HONOR?
  - o **L**isten, **O**bey, **V**olunteer to help, **E**njoy being with them.
  - o Holding on to sweet memories
  - o Sharing Success and glory – Athlete “Hi Mom”
  - o Take care of aging parents
  - o Living wisely
  - o Live Godly and God fearing
  - o In our thoughts, words, and actions
- **WHEN DO PARENTS REALLY FEEL HONOR**
  - o Children Express Gratitude

- Children Reflect unconditional love and give parents a sense of being secure in a place in the child's heart.

- Which is the first commandment = Nope the 5<sup>th</sup>
- With promise = Wow...a positive reinforcement.

#### V. 3

1. – That it may be well with thee = prosper or succeed or **thrive**

2. – That you may live long on the earth = **survive**

#### V. 4

- **And =** this assumes cooperation and part of the equation...contributing factors.
- Ye fathers = those of you saying “WooHoo!! Tell them Preacher!”
- Fathers = parents especially those of you with a propensity for saying hurtful things.
  - Could also be said of mothers...especially when?
    - The teen years...not so much talk but simply recalling the previous conversations or “points of reference” ...not so much of explanations WHY but asking them to recall “WHAT have I told you?”

- Provoke not = Like calling names and wondering if they are demon possessed or noticing things that might be hurtful...”now I know why in the following verses it talks about spiritual wickedness in places and rulers of darkness”
- Your children = these are your children
  - You wanted them
  - You brought them into this life
  - You are responsible for their needs
  - You are to do all that you can to bless them
  - Ultimately you will answer for your stewardship of them, so don't capitulate
- To wrath – anger
- **KEY FOCUS** is not the wrath but the provoking !!!
  - Be careful not to **STIR** things up just because of selfish reasons. Ie. **EMBARASSMENT, DISAPPOINTMENT, INCONVIENCE,**
- **But** = a contrast to the worlds way of raising kids...now add something unique to the Church
- Bring them up = Nourish them with
- In the nurture = “the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals,” instruction which aims at increasing virtue. Generating a value system which admires godliness.

- Admonition = “exhortation” clear explanation of how to do things...could include step by step instructions.
- Of the Lord = from God’s Word ...use scripture daily, routinely, it is what will equip children to live Christian lives..II Timothy 3:16-17.

***“Children are gifts from the Lord but also stewardships unto the Lord.”***