

Subject: A Christian Home, Part 4

Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-4

We have already looked at God's word to the wives and God's message to the men in Ephesians 5:22-33. In Ephesians 6, we find God's command for children and God's plan for parents. All relationships in the family exist by God's grace and for His glory. Family life is not always tidy, but it can be messy. Life in a Christian home should be rich and rewarding. In today's message we are looking at God's command for children. In our text we have two commands: obey your parents and honor your father and mother.

OBEY YOUR PARENTS

This is a simple and straightforward command. Only one reason is given: "for this is right." A child may say, "But my parents are not always right." The Bible says to obey them for this is right. The reason to obey your parents is for the Lord's sake. **Colossians 3:20** *Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.* If you want to please the Lord, you must obey your parents, and when you obey your parents, you are actually obeying the Lord.

HONOR YOUR PARENTS

Obeying your parents speaks of our actions, but honoring them has to do with our attitude. To "honor" means to "attach weight or significance to someone." You should think highly of your parents. You should be respectful in the way you talk to them and the way you talk about them. **Leviticus 19:2-3** ² *Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, Ye shall be holy: for I the LORD your God am holy.* ³ *Ye shall fear every man his mother, and his father, and keep my sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.* **Deuteronomy 27:16** *Cursed be he that setteth light by his father or his mother. And all the people shall say, Amen.* (ESV, "Cursed be anyone who dishonors his father or his mother").

This is one of the Ten Commandments, but it is the first commandment dealing with our relationship with other people. Commandments one through 4 deal with our relationship to God. It is also the first commandment with a promise attached to it. God promises a blessed and long life. The Bible tells us that Jesus obeyed and honored His parents. Luke 2:51 says Jesus was subject unto his parents. He was under their authority and always honored them by His actions and attitudes. The Bible has a lot more to say about a child's relationship to his parents. Here are some ways that children can honor their parents.

HELP YOUR PARENTS

Proverbs 10:5 *He that gathereth in summer is a wise son: but he that sleepeth in harvest is a son that causeth shame.* Children can and should help mom and dad with work around the house. It is a disgrace for a young man not to help his dad with the yard work. It is a disgrace for a young lady not to help her mom with the housework.

THANK YOUR PARENTS

One of the signs of the last days is that people will be unthankful. Gratitude ought to begin at home. We take so much for granted. When was the last time you thanked your parents for your home? The groceries they buy? The bed you sleep in? For paying the light bill and

water bill? You say, “Well, that’s their job, that’s their responsibility.” And you’re right. But they still like to hear a “thank you.” We ought to have Parent Appreciation Month once in a while.

PRAY FOR YOUR PARENTS

Ask God to guide them and give them wisdom. In many ways your life is in their hands. It’s not easy being a parent. We all know there are no perfect parents. Has it ever crossed your mind that there are no professional parents? All parents learn as we go. You could call it on the job training. You need to pray for your parents because almost every decision they make will affect you. Pray that God will give them godly wisdom and a desire to do the right thing.

PLEASE YOUR PARENTS

It should be your aim in life to please them and be a blessing to them. ***Proverbs 10:1*** *A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother.* Being a parent can be a great blessing or it can be the heavy burden. ***Proverbs 23:15*** *My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine.* ***Proverbs 23:24-25*** *The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice.*

ENJOY YOUR PARENTS

You won’t be home all of your life. The time will come when you eventually leave. And some day your parents will leave you. Enjoy being with them and spending time with them.

FORGIVE YOUR PARENTS

When they make mistakes, be quick to forgive them. There are no perfect parents and no perfect children. A great verse for the family is ***Ephesians 4:32*** *And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.* ***1 Peter 4:8*** *And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.* The Bible gives a picture of how love covers sin in the story of Noah and his three sons, Shem, Ham, and Japheth in ***Genesis 9:18-23*** ¹⁸ *And the sons of Noah, that went forth of the ark, were Shem, and Ham, and Japheth: and Ham is the father of Canaan.* ¹⁹ *These are the three sons of Noah: and of them was the whole earth overspread.* ²⁰ *And Noah began to be an husbandman, and he planted a vineyard: ²¹ And he drank of the wine, and was drunken; and he was uncovered within his tent. ²² And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. ²³ And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness.*

LEARN FROM YOUR PARENTS

Pay attention to their advice and counsel and learn everything you can from them. Someone has figured out that the peak years of mental ability must be between age 4 and 20. At four we have all the questions and at 20 we know all the answers. Have you noticed that the older you get, the wiser your parents get. ***Proverbs 13:1*** *A wise son heareth his father's instruction: but a scorner heareth not rebuke.* Nobody has your interest at heart like your mom and dad.

Just think of it like this. Suppose you were going on a trip out West, and your parents left a few weeks before you. They would be happy to tell you about the roads, the good places to stop, the places to avoid, etc. That's the way it is in life. Your parents have been down that road before. You say, "But the road has changed so much. The hazards and the roadside attractions are so different than when Mom and Dad were younger." Some things have changed, but many things haven't changed. Human nature hasn't changed. God's Word hasn't changed. Be wise and learn from their experience.

TAKE CARE OF YOUR PARENTS

Your parents cared for you when you were needy, and it is your duty to care for them whenever they are in need. **1 Timothy 5:8** *But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.* If our Christian faith doesn't work at home, it doesn't work at all. Honoring our parents includes financial support if they need it. Jesus reprimanded the Pharisees and scribes in **Matthew 15:3-6**³ *Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?*⁴ *For God commanded, saying, Honor thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.*⁵ *But ye say, Whosoever shall say to his father or his mother, It is a gift, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;*⁶ *And honor not his father or his mother, he shall be free. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.*