

## ***Children: Obey Your Mom & Dad (Ephesians 6:1-3)***

- I. **Introduction:** *Jesus loves the little children, all the children that the world hates*
  - A. Children in the Roman Empire
  - B. Children hated throughout history
    1. Exodus 1:22
    2. Matt 2:16-17
    3. Plato's Republic
    4. Our present *anti-life* government and culture
  - C. Society's rule: We accumulate what we do want and get rid of what we don't want
    1. "*We love drywall more than we love children*" K. Swanson
  - D. Contrast this to the Bible's view on children (Ps 128:3, 127:4-5)
  - E. Reading the text and an outline of sermon
- II. **Ephesians 6:1 Children ...**
  - A. God is speaking to you!
    1. That's why you are here on Sunday morning and not whisked off to some children's class.
    2. The irony of "*children's ministry*" that takes children out of corporate worship and then laments over '*losing our youth from worship*'
  - B. Who are the "*children*" that this Scripture is addressing?
- III. **Ephesians 6:1-2 Understanding the command**
  - A. What is *obedience*?
    1. It's simple to understand
    2. It's challenged in the world today – even by your Christian friends
  - B. Disobedience to your parents indicates that you are *not* a Christian
    1. Romans 1:28-32, 2 Tom 3:1-4
  - C. The Fifth Commandment (Ex 12:20, Dt 5:16)
    1. Its place in the Decalogue – first or second tablet?
      - a. honoring your parents is honoring God (Mal 1:6)
    2. How can you practically honor your parents? (Make a list on back)
    3. God takes the command very seriously
      - a. Dt 27:16, Prov 20:20, Dt 21:18-21, Matt 15:4
- IV. **Ephesians 6:2-3: Obedience motivated by grace**
  - A. The first command with a promise
    1. That it might go well with you
    2. That you might live long
- V. **Conclusion: What happens when I don't obey**
  - A. As a law-breaker deserving of death – set your sight on the Gospel, the only place where you will find forgiveness.
  - B. Is there any hope for the future in a world that is *anti-life* and rebellious?