

## INTRODUCTION

Children, it is your turn to hear the word of the Lord addressed to you. You have heard the word of Jesus Christ addressed to the wives, your mothers. You have heard the word of Jesus Christ addressed to the husbands, your fathers. You have listened in, of course, and stored away understanding for the day when you will be a husband or a wife, and you have learned how Jesus Christ is a husband to us as His church, and we are to Him as a wife and as the members of His own body.

But today we turn the page into Ephesians chapter 6, and the first thing we see there is addressed to you children.

## TEXT

Ephesians 6:1a Children, obey your parents in the Lord

## BODY

### I. Children

- A. He means both boys and girls still young enough to be under the care of their parents; still living at home with their parents
  - 1. in some sense even grown-ups are the children of their parents
  - 2. but this command is for you who are still living with your parents, under their care
- B. When the letter was read, it would be read with the children listening
  - 1. this was a letter
    - a) Paul was in Rome, guarded by soldiers
    - b) he spoke, while someone else wrote
    - c) the letter was to be read in a church far away in Ephesus
    - d) the letters Paul sent were to be copied and passed around in the other churches
      - (1) Colossians 4:16 Now when this epistle is read among you, see that it is read also in the church of the Laodiceans, and that you likewise read the epistle from Laodicea.
    - e) so Paul intended the children to be present in the assembly, and to hear the letter read to the children
- C. In another letter, Paul was glad that his friend Timothy had been taught the bible when he was a child
  - 1. 2 Timothy 3:15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

- D. You know, the Lord Jesus Christ Himself said, “let the little children come to me”
- E. What does that tell you?
  - 1. the Word of God, the bible, is for you
    - a) listen when it is read
    - b) read it as soon as you can
  - 2. all that the bible says is for you to know and understand
- F. What is happening right now, that the bible is being read and explained to you, is a very good thing, that most of the children of the world do not have
  - 1. the same with your parents reading it to you at home
  - 2. or telling you to read it yourself
- G. Children, you are being spoken to by God Himself, by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through Paul, whom Jesus sent to you; listen, dear children, to what the bible says to you

## II. Children, **Obey**

- A. Think what “obey” means: literally “to listen under” *hoopako-o*
  - 1. *hupo* we have learned already: “under”
  - 2. *akoo-o* is our word “acoustic” or “acoustics”
    - a) it means “to hear” or “to listen”
  - 3. so, when the bible says, “obey,” it is telling you, “listen as one who is under,” (since your parents are over you)
- B. What it is to obey
  - 1. to listen when they speak
    - a) attentively
    - b) we would say “respectfully” (but we learned last week that really the word is “reverentially”)
  - 2. to do what they tell you to do
    - a) right away
    - b) cheerfully, without complaining
    - c) thoroughly
  - 3. and not to do what they tell you not to do
  - 4. to accept their correction
    - a) deferring to their judgment as to whether or not you need it
    - b) deferring to their judgment as to how corrective punishment is administered
    - c) accepting that they cannot be perfect in justice
- C. There is nothing bad about obeying
  - 1. obeying is an excellent thing
  - 2. ever since Adam and Eve disobeyed in the Garden of Eden, people have been sometimes obeying and sometimes not obeying, but obeying is the good thing
  - 3. about the time that people my age were babies, and people who are about 60 or 70 now were young adults, there was a big change in

America, making people think that disobeying is a good thing, and obeying is somehow a bad thing

4. a lot of the movies and TV shows try to tell you that obeying is somehow the cause of problems, and if you will just disobey, you can make things better; but that isn't the truth

D. Every human being has to obey

1. at different times in life, and in different situations, you have to obey different people
2. but you always have someone you have to obey
3. and even if you had no other human being to obey, you always need to obey God

E. Your part while you are a child is to obey

1. you need the direction of your parents, whether you think so or not
2. this changes as you get older
  - a) not needing their direction so much in some things
  - b) needing it more in others, as you can do more damage to yourself and others

F. Obeying is a very good pattern of life, that will serve you well

1. in dealing with life as an adult
2. in dealing with God

G. Consider that our salvation rests on Jesus Christ's obedience

1. He obeyed, and therefore our sins could be imputed to Him, and He could take the punishment for our disobedience
2. He obeyed, and therefore His righteousness can be imputed to us

### III. Children, Obey **Your Parents**

A. You are tempted to obey people you shouldn't obey

1. your peers, your friends, people your age
2. the movie makers
  - a) hollywood
  - b) youtube
3. the advertisers
4. the people a few years older than you
  - a) they seem cool
  - b) they have some freedom, but not much responsibility, so they do interesting things

B. But the commandment is to obey your parents

C. The ones in the place of your parents, even if not naturally your parents

1. as the Lord Jesus Himself with Joseph
  - a) He was born of Mary by the Holy Spirit
  - b) so Joseph was not truly His father
2. which is God's providence, and He knows best

D. Both father and mother

1. father; you might think or feel that you don't need to obey your father
    - a) may perhaps seem distant to you because of much absence for work illus. my reluctance to weed the garden
    - b) may perhaps seem not to care
  2. mother
    - a) may perhaps seem weak to you because of gentleness
    - b) may perhaps seem not to be above you because of familiarity
  3. but you are to obey your parents, both
- E. You are to obey them instead of anyone else because they are your parents
1. not because they are the greatest people in the world; they might not be
  2. not because they are the coolest people; they probably are not
  3. not because you understand them; you probably do not
  4. not because you perceive they understand you; you probably think they do not
  5. you obey them because in God's providence they are your parents
- F. Parents, would you be obeyed?
1. fathers, obey those over you
  2. mothers, obey those over you
  3. would it be just for God to make those under you obedient, when you yourself refuse to be obedient to the ones over you?
  4. will it teach children to submit when you will not?

#### IV. Children, Obey Your Parents **in the Lord**

- A. Remember Ephesians 5:21
1. submitting to one another in the fear of God or in reverence for Christ
  2. all of our submitting, all of our obeying is done because we fear God, because we reverence Christ
- B. "in the Lord" meaning "in all things as to the Lord"
1. compare parallel verses on wives
    - a) Ephesians 5:24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands **in everything**.
    - b) Colossians 3:18 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting **in the Lord**.
  2. with parallel verses on children
    - a) Colossians 3:20 Children, obey your parents **in all things**, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
    - b) Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**, for this is right.
  3. Jesus Christ is over all of us in everything, and we are to obey Him in everything; He has put our parents over us in the family; so we obey them in the Lord, in everything
- C. This is what God has appointed
- D. This is to be done unto the Lord

- E. You can obey your parents with confidence and without being afraid of what will happen, because God, who commanded this, is also in control of what happens to you when you obey
- F. This is what the Savior, Jesus Christ did regarding His earthly parents
  - 1. Luke 2:51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them . . .
  - 2. which dismisses any arguments you may form for why you needn't obey because of some superiority to your parents
- G. This is what the Savior, Jesus Christ did and is still doing regarding His heavenly Father
  - 1. John 15:10 I have kept My Father's commandments
  - 2. John 6:37-40 All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. (38) For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. (39) This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. (40) And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."
  - 3. anyone who comes to Jesus Christ will not be cast out, because it is the will of the Father for Him to receive anyone who believes in Him
  - 4. at the last day, the Lord Jesus Christ will raise up everyone who believes in Him to everlasting life, because it is the will of the Father for Him to do that

## V. APPLICATION

- A. Remember to consider God as your Father in Heaven
- B. Let all consider that if even parents on earth are to be obeyed, how much more our Father which is in heaven
  - 1. Jeremiah 35:13-16 "Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: 'Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, "Will you not receive instruction to obey My words?" says the LORD. (14) "The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, which he commanded his sons, not to drink wine, are performed; for to this day they drink none, and obey their father's commandment. But although I have spoken to you, rising early and speaking, you did not obey Me. (15) I have also sent to you all My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, 'Turn now everyone from his evil way, amend your doings, and do not go after other gods to serve them; then you will dwell in the land which I have given you and your fathers.' But you have not inclined your ear, nor obeyed Me. (16) Surely the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them, but this people has not obeyed Me." '

2. so, do not be like the disobedient Israelites; but obey your Father in heaven
- C. Consider that we do not think it wrong for children to be taught to obey their parents; we rejoice in it
1. therefore we should not think it wrong for others who are under to obey those in authority over them

## CONCLUSION

Hebrews 5:8-9 though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. (9) And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,

## **children**

EB:

He addresses them as present in the assembly where his letter is read.

Barnes:

used here, evidently, to denote those who were under the care and government of their parents, or those who were not of age.

## **obey**

Barnes:

It is, to do what their parents command them to do.

the child is not competent as yet; to “reason” on what is right, or qualified to direct himself; and, while that is the case, he must be subject to the will of some other person.

Ferguson:

it doth, in the first place, signify a submissive hearkening unto and obeying of their lawful commands, as the word in the original doth imply

Honor

-inward reverence, or acknowledgement of that eminency in which God hath placed parents above their children

-joined with fear

-and love

-testified as by outward signs, so by reverent speaking of them and to them

Obedience

-receive the instruction of their parents

-execute their lawful commands and directions

-accept with patience their reproof and correction

Gratitude and thankfulness

-so as they help parents, when their necessity requireth

Bayne:

five principal branches

1. to their instructions, we must, when they teach us, lend the ear of our hearts
2. we must subject ourselves to their commands in all things
3. to their corrections, though over-rigorous and causeless
4. in taking the callings of life to which they train us
5. in the matter of marriage

## **your parents**

Ferguson:

[as others] both their parents, the mother as well as the father

## **in the Lord**

Calvin:

the obedience of children [to their parents] is enforced by the authority of God

Trapp:

As Isaac did Abraham in submitting to be sacrificed; as Christ became obedient even to the death of the cross.

Bayne:

[as others]

-so far as they cross not God's commandment

-as knowing thou dealest not with man, but God, whose ordinance this is

Poole:

see Ephesians 5:21

Henry:

I take it rather as a reason: "Children, obey your parents; for the Lord has commanded it: obey them therefore for the Lord's sake, and with an eye to him."

Gill:

because it is the command of the Lord, and is wellpleasing in his sight, and makes for his glory, and therefore should be done for his sake

Hodge:

It should be religious; arising out of the conviction that such obedience is the will of the Lord. This makes it a higher service than if rendered from fear or from mere natural affection. It secures its being prompt, cordial and universal. That Κύριος here refers to Christ is plain from the whole context.

Ellicott:

It is, in fact, a brief indication of their great subject—unity with and in Christ. Here to "obey in the Lord" is to obey under the light and grace of that unity, as already belonging both to parents and children, and transfiguring all natural relations to a diviner glory.

Ferguson:

first, a motive tot he duty

second, the right fountain from whence this submission should flow

third, the rule and measure of this submission

their obedience must flow from conscience of duty towards God

Pattison:

in every thing not forbidden by the Lord



Calvin:

Obedience is the evidence of that honor which children owe to their parents, and is therefore more earnestly enforced.

Spurgeon:

There is the child's duty, but there is the parent's duty, too.

Vincent:

believing children

specifically children who were members of the church

"in the Lord" modifies the word "obey" not the phrase "your parents"

habits of obedience normally lead to a happy, long life (which is undermined by socialist kind of government)

children, this is the best way for you to engage in evangelism

Walthers:

YOUR parents

Dykstra:

see Romans 13:8-10

BB Warfield

the 10 C stand in Paul's mind as the summary of the fundamental principles of essential morality, and are, as such, of eternal validity

the commandment has changed to reflect the change from old to new covenant

the land was not given to Israel unconditionally Deu 28:58-64 Jer 7:1-15

the land was not permanently holy, but made such by the special presence of God;

when the special presence of God left the temple and Jerusalem, the land was not longer holy, and ripe for judgment Ez 10-11

the promise is still in effect, but it has changed

under the new covenant there is no specific holy land John 4:21-23

general, but not absolute, promise; life lived in obedience to parents will generally, but not always, result in a long life

ultimately fulfilled in the new heavens and the new earth

note that it is both father and mother

"It's a wonderful thing to come from the north to the south."

Slate:

God sees whether or not you are respectful on the inside.

From the abundance of the heart, the mouth speaks.

obey

instantly

thoroughly

implicitly

he applies it to us spiritually

he changes the application

in obeying your parents there is protection

Losardo:

[as others] it seems children must have been in the assembly in the early church

JRY:

Children, all that the bible tells us of Christ is yours. Certain things are especially for you, or even exclusively for you.

This verse is helpful in defining what is "right"

- that there is such a thing

- what the source of it is

This verse is a tremendous help in interpreting the bible.

- see the use of one of the commandments

- see the reference to the ten commandments as a unit

- see the adaptation of the promise to life outside Israel

- "this is right" = the 10 commandments say it

If you are in the care of someone other than your parents, that is God's providence.

See that "parents" equals "mother and father."

The fact that you don't obey your parents points you to your need of a savior.

You are tempted to obey other people

- your peers

- the movie makers

- the people a few years older than you

God is in control

Call to Worship: Psalm 34:1-3

Scripture Reading: Psalm 34:4-11

Sermon: "Children, Obey Your Parents" Ephesians 6:1-4

Benediction: Psalm 34:22

Prelude: Hymn 192 "Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted"

Hymn vxi (first arrangement) "Doxology"

Hymn "I Am His and He Is Mine"

Hymn "There Is No Greater Portrait"

Hymn 432 "Jesus, What a Friend for Sinners"