

Welcome to Childing 101...

Because... PARENTS don't come with instructions.

**Your Experience:** You may have noticed that after you were born, there were these two figures that were constantly around you. They called themselves your mom and your dad. They seemed to be in competition with each other as to which one could get you to say "mama" or "dada" first. And all of this just happened to you without anyone every asking you:

- Do you think you need parenting?
- Would you like a mom? Would you like a dad?
- Who would you like to be your parents?

No. There was no interview process. You didn't get to sit across a desk and interview prospective candidates who would like to be your parents. No one asked your opinion. And these parents might be rich or poor, have great social skills or not. You had no choice in where you'd live, or what religious views your parents would have.

And these parents without you ever weighing in with your opinion felt that they had the right to tell you what to do. And if you didn't do it, there would be consequences. They'd take things away from you. You're thinking, "If you were just going to take it away, then WHY'D YOU GIVE IT to me in the first place?" They'd sometimes inflict physical punishments or even raise their voice at you.

And perhaps there was a time when you were standing there in your diaper confounded looking up at a red-faced angry parent who was barking out orders and you thought to yourself, "I did not sign up for this!"

But despite your protests or your dislike of having a mom and dad, they just kept sticking around. You learned to walk, and you were sure, "Mom, dad, I'm good. I'll take it from here." But for some reason they felt like they just weren't done parenting yet. And they have continued to stick around and be this stubborn fixture in your life.

Which begs the question: **What do I do with these parents?**

The thing that makes this question especially difficult is that your parents are sinners. You may have figured that out by now. They don't always do the right thing or say the right thing. Sometimes they don't treat you with the respect and love they should. Sometimes they lose their cool. So how do we deal with that? ...

**Ephesians 6:1-3** - <sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>"Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>"that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

**2 Instructions for Children** – regarding how to deal with your parents – **Obey them. Honor them.**

- **Reason Why:** It's the right thing to do
- **Blessing:** You'll live a good, long life

**Obey your parents.**

<sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- Plural: obey your parents – both of them
  - Sometimes it's easy to obey one more than the other

- **Who's stricter?** – Often, kids will obey the more strict parent, but disobey the parent who's more easy-going.
- But you need to obey BOTH of your parents.

**What does it mean to Obey?**: literally the Greek Bible Word means to listen under, to harken, or to obey

### 1. See yourself as under their authority and wisdom.

- Wise parents ought to be listened to.
- **Authority**: You don't tell your parents what to do. They tell you what to do. You're not the boss; they are.
- **Older and Wiser**: They've been on this planet longer than you, and if you listen to them, you can save yourself a lot of unnecessary problems in your life.
  - You might be better on the computer than they are...or better at video games
  - BUT - In terms of decisions and wisdom for successful living – parents 2X, 3X or 4X your age
    - My daughter **Chloe** is 12: I'm almost 4X older than her.
    - **Claire** is 10: I'm exactly 4.6X as old as she is.
    - **Cailyn** is 9: I'm 5X as old as she is.
    - **Kate** is 7: I am almost 6.5X her age.
    - Your parents a lot older than you, and they know a lot of things that you don't know yet.
- **See yourself as under** them in wisdom so you value what they say

### 2. Look for them to speak.

- Don't see your parents' advice as an unwelcome intrusion.
- No. You should be expecting them every day to give you wisdom and guidance.
- Be ready to hear from them. Expect for them to give you commands and instructions for your life.

### 3. Pay attention to what they say to you.

- When you **hear your name**, say, "**Yes mom**" or "**Yes, dad**". Walk up close to them. Then look them in the eyes and get ready to take mental notes on what they say to you. Maybe even written notes. **Lean forward** and listen very closely because **GOD** has good things he wants to teach you through your parents' instructions.
  - Let's practice that right now: I'll have your mom call your name. You stand up. Look at her and say "Yes mom" just like you normally do at home, right?
    - Carolyn - 4
    - Jenny - 2
    - Julie - 2
    - Tanya - 2
    - Kelly - 2
    - Michelle - 5

### 4. Remember what they say.

- After receiving a command from your parents, How many of you have ever said to your parents: "**I'm sorry. I forgot.**"
- **Why did you forget?** – Were you thinking about something else? Ultimately, you were **NOT** paying attention. You weren't trying to remember. You weren't taking mental notes and really valuing the instruction of your parents. Something else was more important to you, so you just say, "**I forgot**".
- **Deut. 8**: God warns the people over and over **NOT TO FORGET** his commands, but to **REMEMBER** them.
- **DON'T READ** → <sup>11</sup> "**Take care lest you forget** the LORD your God by not keeping his commandments and his rules and his statutes, which I command you today, <sup>12</sup>lest,

when you have eaten and are full and have built good houses and live in them... <sup>14</sup> then your heart be lifted up, and you **[DON'T] forget the LORD** your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery... <sup>18</sup> **You shall remember** the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth, that he may confirm his covenant that he swore to your fathers, as it is this day. <sup>19</sup> And if you **[DON'T] forget the LORD** your God and go after other gods and serve them and worship them, I solemnly warn you today that you shall surely perish."

- **OT** – Israelites were punished for forgetting. **YOU MUST REMEMBER!**
- Is it ok to **discipline** kids when they forget? Well... **God** disciplines his kids when they forget his commands.
- So remember what you parents say... AND

#### 5. Do what they say.

- **James 1:22**: Be doers of the word, and not hearers only.
- Listen to your parents and **do what they say** with a GOOD attitude.

So... **What does it mean to obey?**

1. See yourself as under their authority and wisdom.
2. Look for them to speak.
3. Pay attention to what they say to you.
4. Remember what they say.
5. Do what they say.

LISTEN AND OBEY your parents and watch how much God blesses your life!