

## Relationships – Kids

**Ephesians 6:1-4** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> *"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:* <sup>3</sup> *"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."*  
<sup>4</sup> And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

- Why are only fathers listed with a role regarding parenting, but not mothers? Our perfect parenting example is God the Father.
- But mothers are included in parenting.
  - **Proverbs 1:8** My son, hear the instruction of your father, And do not forsake the law of your mother;

## Children Obey your parents

- Children are to **obey** their **parents**.
- Children are to obey, but that will not come naturally to them. Therefore, they must be taught.
- Since this is a command of God, teaching them to obey is helping them keep the commandments. And not teaching them to obey is helping them be disobedient to God.
- One of the ways we teach children to obey God is by first teaching them to obey their parents.
- **In the Lord** – For the parent, teach obedience within the values and morality of our Biblical worldview.
  - For the child – obedience to that which is within the confines of the Lord.
- God rewards obedience.

***Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:*** <sup>3</sup> ***"that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.***

- Not just obedience – honor and respect.
  - If you are not teaching your children to honor and respect you, you are preventing them from a blessing of God.

- **That it may go well with you** – disciplined children are productive and well-adjusted members of society.
  - Without discipline children will not have many friends. Other parents will not want them over to influence their kids.
  - Without the practice of discipline in small things, they will not know how to understand discipline in the super-important things in life. Like drugs, premarital sex, gender dysphoria, cultural trends that may influence them.
  - A properly disciplined child tends to have a values system in place that they fall back on when peer pressure tries to convince them of differing values.
- **On the earth** = land = the Promised land. Their days are long in the promises of God. Saved for a long time. (**Deuteronomy 4:40** You shall therefore keep His statutes and His commandments which I command you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you, and that you may prolong your days in the land which the LORD your God is giving you for all time.”)
  - Basically, that they may spend their days in the promises of God. In His promised land.

### **Do not provoke your children to wrath**

- Parents certainly have the opportunity to **provoke** their **children to wrath**, through an unkind, over-critical attitude that torments the child instead of training them. But Christian parents should never be like this.
- Wrath = discouragement, disheartening, anger / joy, happiness is opposite
- That is, by unreasonable commands; by needless severity; by the manifestation of anger. So govern them, and so punish them—if punishment is necessary—that they shall not lose their confidence in you, but shall love you.
- This is where Grace-based parenting comes in.

### **Grace-based parenting**

1. A secure love – They know they are loved even if they mess up
  - a. When they do mess up they want to run to the parents.
  - b. Disciplining in love
  - c. Spending time together
  - d. Expressing all 5 love languages to them regularly.
2. Acceptance for who they are.
  - a. Freedom to be themselves. Children are not clones of the parents. They need freedom of expression, but with acceptance (within the confines of "in the Lord).
  - b. Ex of my hair and my mom
3. Worth Based on Relationship – Parents should ascribe value to their children not for their accomplishments, but for who they are.
  - a. It is fine and good to praise them for accomplishments.
  - b. But they should also be praised for being themselves.
  - c. This is not the same as participation trophies. Those state that you succeeded by doing nothing.
  - d. Our worth is not tied to our doing, but by our being. Thus accomplishments are praised, failures are lessons learned. But their worth is from who they are.
  - e. They are valuable solely because they are your children, just as you are valuable to God solely because you are His child.
4. A safe home – physically and emotionally and spiritually
  - a. The freedom to make mistakes – but with correction (otherwise there is no learning)
  - b. Freedom to ask questions without judgement.
  - c. Freedom to move in the Spiritual gifts.
  - d. Kids do not inherently know what is right and wrong, so they must be taught, and not act shocked if they don't know something.

**Bring them up in the training (chastening) and admonition (discipline) of the Lord.**

- **Training** is the same word translated *chastening*. It has the idea of training through corrective discipline. **Admonition** has more of the

idea of *teaching* – both are necessary, though it may be significant that **training** comes first.

- Bring them up: How you discipline a child is not what is being debated here. I personally believe each child must be disciplined according to the personality of that child.
  - Spankings were ineffective on me, but don't take away my stuff.
  - Spankings were effective on Tina, but sending her to her room was not.
- Discipline is extremely important. Listen to how our perfect Father parents us:
  - **Hebrews 12:5-6** And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons: *"My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him; <sup>6</sup> For whom the LORD loves He chastens, And scourges every son whom He receives."*
  - **Hebrews 12:7-8** If you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? <sup>8</sup> But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons.
  - **Hebrews 12:11** Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.
  - **Revelation 3:19** As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.
- Godly discipline is more important that I could emphasize.

**Discipline is important because children are born into sin.** The most important thing we will teach our children is to be sons and daughters of God. Which starts with who God is, and their need for a savior.

- **You may not want to hear it, but your child is a sinner.** They do not inherit your righteousness that you get from Christ.
- Age of Accountability

**Parents are the representatives of God until they point them to God.**

- We show them unconditional love so they know of God's love.
- We provide for them, protect them, teach them.
- Then over time, we show them that God is doing that for the parents, and that they can rely on God for those things.

**On average, 75% of kids leave the church and then the faith between the ages of 18-29**

- Silent Generation = 84% Christian
- Baby Boomers = 76% Christian
- Gen X = 47% Christian
- Millennials = 22% Christian
- Gen Z = 13% Christian

A study looked at the 25% that stayed and found a few commonalities:

- Ate dinner at least 5 nights a week as a family
- Served with their families in a ministry
- Had one spiritual experience in the home during the week
- Entrusted with responsibility in ministry at an early age
- Had at least one faith-focused adult in their lives, other than their parents.

**Deuteronomy 6:4-9** "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD *is* one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. <sup>6</sup> "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. <sup>7</sup> You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. <sup>8</sup> You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. <sup>9</sup> You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

**All this still stems from the imperative from Ephesians 5:18 – Be filled with the Spirit**