

Christian Family – Parents and Children Eph. 6:1-4

Introduction:

The argument is often made that because someone does not have children, they cannot talk about children. However, using this same line of reasoning, we would then have to say that someone who is not an alcoholic cannot talk about alcohol; someone who is not an adulterer cannot talk about adultery; (same is true with stealing, murder, homosexuality, etc.). (In the case of telling someone how to raise their children, this may be true; but not in telling someone what the Bible says about children.)

Because God is the only one to ever raise a perfect Son, then we should raise our children according to His standards. Today we will be looking at those standards throughout the word of God in the attempt to better understand the Parent-Child relationship.

Just as we noted last week with the husband-wife relationship, when we are all (parents and children) seeking to do God's will, the home will be a happy place to be.

I. Children have a responsibility to their parents (6:1-3).

- A. Children are commanded to obey and honor their parents.
 - 1. To honor literally means, “to revere” (Strong’s).
 - a. This word is used for a child under their parents’ control.
 - b. Today, we would say that this would be a minor child.
 - c. However, the implications extend far beyond a person under 18.
 - 2. The command to obey our parents is found elsewhere in the Bible.
 - a. This was a command that was given to Israel.
 - 1) **Lev. 19:3** - Every one of you shall revere his mother and his father, and keep My Sabbaths: I am the LORD your God.
 - 2) **Ex. 20:12** - Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
 - b. It is also given to us today.
 - 1) **Pr. 1:8** - My son, hear the instruction of your father, and do not forsake the law of your mother;
 - 2) **Col. 3:20** - Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
 - 3) **I Tim. 5:4** (example of how to honor parents) - But if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents; for this is good and acceptable before God.
- B. There is a promise that is associated with honoring your parents.
 - 1. In fact, this is the first commandment with a promise attached to it.
 - a. To “honor your father and mother” is a quote from **Deut. 5:16**.

- 1) **Deut. 5:16** - Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
- 2) There are four commands before this one, but this is the first with a promise.
- b. Notice the promise that was made by God.
 - 1) **Deut. 5:16b** - that your days may be long, and that it may be well with you in the land which the LORD your God is giving you.
 - 2) There are a couple of reasons for this.
 - a) If they obeyed their parents, they would not fall into idolatry, and God would not destroy them.
 - b) Also, they would not do certain things that would lead to an early death.
- C. There is a punishment for being disobedient to our parents.
 1. There was a severe punishment for being disobedient under the Old Law.
 - a. **Ex. 21:15** - And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.
 - b. **Ex. 21:17** - And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.
 - c. **Deut. 21:18-21** - If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, {19} then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city, to the gate of his city. {20} And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' {21} Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.
 2. Today, there is also a penalty for being disobedient to our parents.
 - a. The penalty is not a physical death, as in the Old Law.
 - b. However, to be disobedient to our parents is to be disobedient to God, which leads to eternal death.
 - c. Remember, this is a command from God, not man.
- D. We need to teach our young people from an early age to obey their parents.

II. Parents have a great responsibility to their children (6:4).

- A. The word for “fathers” could just as easily be translated “parents.”
 1. When considering the context (esp. 6:1 – “parents”), it would make sense that this will read “parents, do not provoke...”
- B. Parents are not to provoke their children.
 1. When parents give a command to their children, it is not to be one that is simply used to make their child angry.

2. They are not to abuse their power as the authority in the family.
 3. **Col. 3:21** - Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
- C. Parents have a responsibility to teach their children about God.
1. Parents are to “bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”
 2. One of the most tragic things that we can do to our children is to not give them a strong foundation in the church.
 3. Israel was given this great responsibility with their children.
 - a. **Deut. 6:6-7** - And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} 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.
 - b. **Deut. 11:18-19** - Therefore you shall lay up these words of mine in your heart and in your soul, and bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. {19} You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 - c. Remember all of the feasts and memorials that they were commanded to keep.
 - 1) Passover (**Ex. 12**), Memorial Stones (**Josh. 4**), etc.
 - 2) The reason was so that when their children asked about them, they could tell them what God has done for them.
 - 3) They were to use these things to teach their children.
 4. We are to do the same with our children today.
 - a. **Eph. 6:4**
 - b. **Pr. 22:6** - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
 - c. **I Tim. 3:4-5** - one who rules his own house well, having his children in submission with all reverence {5} (for if a man does not know how to rule his own house, how will he take care of the church of God?);
- D. Parents have a responsibility to discipline their children.
1. There are many ways to discipline a child
 - a. Each child is different in what type of discipline works for them.
 - b. However, the idea is that we need to discipline our children so that they can learn to be faithful to God.
 2. Notice what the book of Proverbs says about discipline.
 - a. **Pr. 19:18** - Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.
 - b. **Pr. 29:17** - Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.
 - c. **Pr. 13:24** - He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

- d. **Pr. 22:15** - Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.
 - e. **Pr. 23:13** - Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
3. Notice the purpose of this discipline.
- a. **Pr. 3:11-12** - My son, do not despise the chastening of the LORD, nor detest His correction; { 12 } For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.
 - b. **Pr. 20:30** - Blows that hurt cleanse away evil, as do stripes the inner depths of the heart.

Conclusion:

The responsibility of the child and of the parent both revolve around our faithfulness to God.

Our strongest desire should be to be pleasing to God.
This occurs when we are faithful in the home.