

Obey Your Parents Eph. 6:1-4

Introduction:

Paul, a writer and a Christian who had direct inspiration from God, begins in **Eph. 5:22** to talk about the home. He begins by talking about the husband/wife relationship. In chapter 6, he begins talking about the parent/child relationship. In this text of scripture, we can see model of the home that God has intended families to live by. It is that model of the parent/child relationship that we will look at today. We need to learn from that model so that our families can be as strong as possible, and more importantly, be well pleasing to God.

- I. Children have a responsibility to obey their parents, especially their fathers (**1-2**).
 - A. During the period of the Old Testament, children were commanded to honor their father and mother.
 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. **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.
 3. **Deut. 21:18-21**
 - B. Today, children are commanded to obey their parents.
 1. **Col 3:20-21** - Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord. {21} Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.
 - C. If fathers are what they are supposed to be, and children are what they are supposed to be, the home will be a happy place.

- II. The reason that children are to obey their parents is given in **verse 3**.
 - A. While God giving the Moses the law (10 Commandments), He told Moses that the children were to honor, or obey, their parents.
 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. This was the first of the commandments to have a promise attached to it.
 3. The promise was that if we obey our parents we would do well on this earth and that our lives would be long on this earth.
 4. Of course, even the best of children sometimes have their lives ended at a young age, but the principle is true.
 - B. Parents, and especially fathers, have our best interest in mind when they discipline us.
 1. Many times throughout the book of Proverbs, the wise man Solomon tells us about discipline to our children.

- a. **Prov 19:18** - Chasten your son while there is hope, and do not set your heart on his destruction.
 - b. **Prov 22:15** - Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; the rod of correction will drive it far from him.
 - c. **Prov 23:13** - Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.
 - d. **Prov 29:17** - Correct your son, and he will give you rest; yes, he will give delight to your soul.
2. If we truly love our children, we will discipline them.
 - a. **Prov 3:12** - For whom the LORD loves He corrects, just as a father the son in whom he delights.
 - b. **Prov 13:24** - He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly.
 3. We, as parents, need to make sure that as we discipline our children we have their best interest in mind.
 4. We, as children, need to make sure that we heed the warning of our parents when we are disciplined.
- C. God loves us, and because of this love He disciplines us.
1. **Heb. 12:3-11**
 2. It is because of this chastening that we can truly grow the way that God wants us to grow.
 3. God disciplines us because He wants our lives to be lived with Him in eternity.

III. Fathers are to provide for the spiritual training of their children.

- A. The parents of the Israelites were told many times to teach their children the meaning of the sacrifices.
 1. Passover in Egypt (**Ex. 13:3-10**)
 2. Coming out of Egypt (**Deut. 6:20-25**)
 3. Crossing Jordan River (**Josh. 4:1-24**)
 4. They were to remember the great things that God has done for them.
- B. God commanded the parents of the children of Israel to teach them His words.
 1. **Deut 4:9-10** - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, {10} "especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.'
 2. **Deut. 6:6-9**
 3. **Deut. 11:18-21**
- C. Fathers are commanded today to teach their children the ways of God.
 1. **Eph. 6:4** - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but

- bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
2. God tells us what we need in order to follow Him; just as a father tells his children what they need to know.
 - a. **II Tim 3:16-17** - All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, { 17 } that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.
 - b. We get the spiritual training we need by reading and studying His word and by teaching our children to do likewise.
 - D. The best way to teach our children the right way is to be an example for them.

Conclusion:

Are our homes the way that God wants them to be? Parents, are you truly teaching your children to walk in the ways of God, by word and by example? Children, are you obeying you parents in all that they tell you to do?

More importantly, are you obeying your Father in heaven the way that you are supposed to? Can you say that He is you Father? If He is, then you have a great reward that He promises to give to His children. **Rom 8:16-17** - The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, { 17 } and if children, then heirs-- heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him, that we may also be glorified together. Do you have that great home in heaven with God?