

Harmony in the Home Ephesians 6:1-4

INTRO: Harmony, that is what we need in the world today. There is so much confusion and disconnect that harmony is a rare delight. Harmony is a “pleasing relationships, agreement.” When music is in harmony, it is a pleasing combination of musical sounds. When a home is in harmony, it is a pleasing combination of God, Christ, man, woman, and children. Everyone must be in their order for there to be harmony in the home. If the man is out of touch with the Lord Jesus, there will be no harmony in the home. If the wife is rebellious and always at odds with her husband who seeks to lead the home in a Godly manner, then there will be no harmony in the home. If the children of the home do not learn to obey, to honor, to appreciate and work, then there will be no harmony in the home.

Our goal, under God, should be to have harmony in the home. To have this harmony, we must take Ephesians 5:21 seriously. (Note also Col. 3:17-21).

I. VSS 1-3, OBEDIENT CHILDREN

A. Vs. 1, This is not a suggestion, it is a command. It is not something that we could do or should do, it is a command. Children are to obey their parents.

1. Col. 3:20 tells us that obedience to our parents is, “well pleasing to the Lord.” Harmony at home is when:
 - a. The wife submits to the husband “as unto the Lord.”
 - b. The husband loves the wife “as Christ loved the church.”
 - c. The children obey the parents “in the Lord.”
2. By looking at Ephesians 6:1-3 and Colossians 3:20, we are given three reasons why children are to obey their parents:
 - a. By obeying your parents, you are obeying God.
 - b. We are to do right; and by obeying your parents, you are doing right.
 - c. By obeying your parents, God has promised good results. This is not an absolute guarantee for we all know of good children who have died young and bad ones who have lived long. As a general rule, those children who follow the teachings of godly parents, parents who faithfully serve God, will live orderly and long lives.

3. Obedience is what the Lord wants.
 - a. A modern version of Eph 6:1 might say: "Parents, obey your children, for this will keep them happy and bring peace in the home." This is contrary to God's Holy Word.
 - b. Even animals teach their young to obey.
 4. Disobedience is as the sin of witchcraft. To disobey is to rebel against God's given authority. I Sam 15:23: "Rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft..."
 5. Obey because parents have more experience. They have been through the trials; they can save you many heartaches.
- B. Vs 2-3, In these verses, Paul looks back to the fifth commandment (Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16).
1. Honor- to show respect and love, to care for them, to bring honor to them by the way we live. Jacob I. Scholchet says: "When the son walks in a crooked path., he surely will bring dishonor and shame upon his parents. But if he walks in the straight path and his deeds are upright, he surely will confer honor on his parents, honoring him in this world among men and in the world to come with the Holy One."
 - a. Don't sass your parents or call them names. A child's bad behavior is a source of disgrace to parents in their own eyes, and in the eyes of others. Your behavior, young person, is not a private affair for it is tied deeply with the scripture: "Honor thy father and mother."
 - b. Realize that God has given you the parents you have, and He has a purpose in doing so.
 - c. In love and respect, consult your parents on important issues such as marriage, etc.
 2. The fifth commandment brings a promise with it.
 - a. "That thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee" (Ex 20:12).
 - b. When children obey their parents, they escape sin and danger.
 - 1- They avoid things that could threaten and shorten their lives.
 - 2- Remember this, "Sin always robs us; obedience always enriches us."

3. One of the signs of apostasy and rejection of God's truth is disobedience to parents (II Tim 3:1-5).

II. VS 4, THE DUTY OF DAD

A. Parents have the responsibility of training their children (Pro 22:6). Children left to themselves will be rebellious (Pro 29:15). Too many of our parents today are not teaching their children to obey. They give up on discipline and let the children do as they please. The average mother today spends 30 minutes a day with their children. The average father today only 7 minutes per day. No wonder so many of our children have developmental disorders! Neglected children become problem children. Personally, I am thankful to my grandparents for filling the gap of care in my life.

1. Things that you can do in order to be a good parent:
 - a. Bring your children up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Pro 22:6). Be in church; teach them the Bible; read to them; pray with them.
 - b. Show love and tenderness to your children. If you don't, someone else will.
 - c. Be a good role model.
 - d. Be a leader. Do not seek the approval of your children when you tell them to do things. Don't say, "Take out the garbage if that's ok with you." Simply tell the to take out the garbage.
 - e. Do not allow your children to call you by your first name. This removes the idea of authority from them.
2. The Bible records the sad results of parents who either neglected their children or set a bad example for them.
 - a. David pampered Absalom and Absalom was rebellious.
 - b. Eli restrained not his sons, and they were a reproach to Israel. Three boys raised in church.
 - c. Isaac pampered Esau, and Rebekah made Jacob her favorite resulting in a divided home.

B. Father's are to discipline, but they are not to provoke their children to wrath.

1. Dad's are to use their authority to encourage and build up the child.
 - a. Col 3:21, "Fathers, provoke not your children to

- anger, lest they be discouraged.”
- b. The opposite of provoke is encourage.
2. Provoking the child to wrath will wound the spirit of the child. Here are some ways that we can wound our children.
 - a. Saying one thing; doing something else.
 - b. Always blaming, never praising. “You’ll never amount to a hill of beans.”
 - c. Inconsistent and unfair discipline (discipline in anger).
 - d. Favoritism.
 - e. Making promises and not keeping them (fishing trip).
 - f. Making light of problems that children have. Puppy love is real to the puppy.
 3. Nurture— learning through discipline.
 - a. Pro 13:24, “He that spareth his rod hateth his son; but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes [early].”
 - b. Discipline in love, not anger.
 - c. Pro 19:18: “Chasten thy son while there is hope and let not thy soul spare for his crying.”
 - d. The Duke of Windsor said: “Everything in the American home is controlled by switches except the children.”
 - e. Pro 22:15: “Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”
 4. Admonition— encourage by instruction.
 - a. Teach them the Word.
 - b. Teach them character.

CONCLUSION: When Professor Nick Stinnet, chairman of the Department of Human Development and the Family at the University of Nebraska, studied more than three thousand families to determine what makes families strong, he discovered six main qualities in strong families.

1. Strong families are committed to the family;
2. Strong families spend time together;
3. Strong families have good family communication;
4. Strong families express appreciation to each other;
5. Strong families have a spiritual commitment;
6. Strong families are able to solve problems in a crisis.

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