

Biblical Relationship Between Parents and Children
Colossians 3:20-21

INTRO: Children are to obey their parents. Parents are to be balanced in raising their children. The strong willed needs to be brought into submission without breaking the spirit.

It is the duty of the child to honor mother and father. Ephesians 6:1-3 says: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.* The subject of the sentence, “Children obey your parents,” is children. It is the responsibility of the child to obey. Young people, God is pleased when you are obedient, not rebellious.

It is the awesome task of parents to discipline in a firm yet loving way, to correct without undue harshness. Parenting is a balancing act.

I. VS 20, CHILDREN OBEY

- A. Like it or not, children are under the authority of the parents. Authority is a dirty word to many people today, but it is an important one.
 - 1. As a child, Jesus was under the authority of Mary and Joseph (Lk 2:51-52). If God the Son is under authority, shouldn't you be, dear child?
 - 2. When a child gets under the God mandated authority of parents, he or she is under the umbrella of God's protection and will receive the special blessings pronounced in the decalogue (Ex 20:12; Deut 5:16).
- B. Obedience to parents is the Biblical and right thing to do as is emphasized in Ephesians 6:1: *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*
 - 1. The opposite of obedience is rebellion. The Bible says that, *For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee from being king.*
 - 2. Those who mock the authority of their mother and father will suffer the consequences of rebellion. Increased rebellion is a sign of the end times (II Tim 3:2).
 - a. Proverbs 30:17: *The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the*

valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

- b. The ravens are men and women of sin who are looking for rebellious youth. The ravens can see rebellion in the eyes. Ravens (actual birds) will pick at the eye of an animal to see if it is dead. If it is not dead, it will defend its eye. Sinful men and women pick at the eye of youth to see if they will defend it spiritually.
- c. A youth headed for destruction will not defend against evil, but will go headlong into destruction.
- 3. Young people, underline the words of Proverbs 1:7-16 in your Bibles. Realize that evil men and women are out to destroy you, to take away your innocence.
- C. "In all things." There is but one limitation to obedience to mother and father, that is when a parent demands the child to do something absolutely contrary to the clear commands of God's Word.
 - 1. The Bible teaches us that redemption can bring about a division in the family if the child is saved and the parents are not.
 - 2. Luke 12:51-53; 14:26.
- D. "This is well pleasing unto the Lord." God is pleased by obedience: obedience to parents, obedience to His commandments. Obedience means we can have fellowship with God; rebellion means a lack of fellowship. The words of the first verse and chorus of the hymn "Trust and Obey" emphasize the joy of fellowship for those who are well pleasing unto the Lord.

II. VS 21, PARENTS LEAD BIBLICALLY

- A. It is not just that children are to obey; parents have a God given obligation to their children. The Greek word for "father" here in Colossians 3:21 is *pateres* and can be translated parents as it is in Hebrews 11:23. So mom you are not off the hook.
- B. "Provoke not your children to anger."
 - 1. "Provoke" is from the Greek word *erethizo* and means, "to stir up, exasperate, irritate, provoke."
 - 2. "Anger" in the verse we are studying means "to be without courage, to be without spirit, to lose heart." Thus to cause a person to become angry with his parents and the world.

- C. Parents need to show their love for their children. This is to be done in word and deed. It is to be realized that there is a delicate balancing act in all this. If you are too laid back, too easy going, your son or daughter will grow up without the discipline needed and will be lacking in needed skills to face life. An overprotected child will have difficulty dealing with real life problems and might become effeminate if a boy has been coddled by the mother. A parent who is never satisfied with their child, who never has a good word to say, who is always cutting the child down, who never says, "I love you," will have a child who is sullen, discouraged, and despairing.
1. John Newton, the writer of Amazing Grace, said: "I know that my father loved me— but he did not seem to wish me to see it." Love your children and let them know it.
 2. Warren Wiersbe says: "Fathers and mothers should encourage their children, not discourage them. One of the most important things parents can do is spend time with their children" (143).

- D. Every parent influences the life of their children in many ways. Dorothy Law Nolte has written the following that helps us understand the influence of a parent on their children:

Children Learn What They Live

If a child lives with criticism,
He learns to condemn.
If a child lives with hostility,
He learns to fight.
If a child lives with ridicule,
He learns to be shy.
If a child lives with shame,
He learns to feel guilty.
If a child lives with tolerance,
He learns to be patient.
If a child lives with encouragement,
He learns confidence.
If a child lives with praise,
He learns to appreciate.
If a child lives with fairness,
He learns justice.
If a child lives with security,
He learns to have faith.

If a child lives with approval,
He learns to like himself.
If a child lives with acceptance and friendship,
He learns to find love in the world.

CONCLUSION: The Christian home is to be a place where Bible balance is exemplified.

Dr. Cecil A. Fayard, Jr.
Nov 8, 2009