

PARENTING BY THE BOOK

PRINCIPLES OF BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

“Honor your father and mother” - which is the first commandment with a promise- “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:1-3

1. REVIEW:

A. “CHILDREN MUST BE TAUGHT TO OBEY. THEY DO NOT COME PRESET TO OBEY... THEY COME PRESET TO DISOBEY. THEREFORE, OBEDIENCE MUST BE TAUGHT.” - DR. STEPHEN LAWSON

B. “THE CHALLENGE OF TEACHING CHILDREN TO OBEY FROM THE HEART IS TO GIVE THEM A NEW HEART.” - DR. STEPHEN LAWSON

C. ALL PARENTS WANT THEIR CHILDREN TO OBEY... AND OFTEN!

1. YET... SOMETIMES IN OUR QUEST FOR OBEDIENCE WE WILL SETTLE FOR COMPLIANCE.

2. NOTE... THEY ARE NOT THE SAME.

a. HOWEVER, THEY CAN LOOK LIKE THE SAME THING.

3. BUT... OBEDIENCE INCLUDES THE WILLFUL SUBMISSION TO AN AUTHORITY.

a. CHILDREN CAN BE COMPLIANT FOR REASONS OTHER THAN A DESIRE TO WILLINGLY SUBMIT TO AN AUTHORITY.

1) EXAMPLES: FEAR AND REWARD

D. COMPLIANCE vs OBEDIENCE

1. COMPLIANCE = HAVE TO

a. OBEDIENCE = WANT TO

2. COMPLIANCE = OUTSIDE IN = COMPULSION

a. OBEDIENCE = INSIDE OUT = DESIRE

3. COMPLIANCE = OFTEN OUT OF FEAR

a. OBEDIENCE = OFTEN OUT OF LOVE AND DEVOTION.

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4. **COMPLIANCE** = **FORCED MODIFICATION**

a. **OBEDIENCE** = **HEART ORIENTATION**

2. STORYTIME:

A. **OUR EXPERIENCE VISITING A CHURCH FAMILY THIS FRIDAY.**

3. BACKGROUND

A. As you can **SENSE**, in **Ephesians 6:1-4** the **FOCUS** is on the **FAMILY**... the **HOME**.

1. Most often **HOME** is either a little bit of **HEAVEN** or it's a little bit of **HELL**... and it's **not much in between**.

a. **HOME** can be a place of **GREATEST HAPPINESS** or it can be a place of **GREATEST HEARTBREAK**.

b. So **HOME** is either **THE BEST OF TIMES** or **THE WORST OF TIMES**.

B. What makes the **DIFFERENCE** in most cases is the **FOCUS ON THE LORD JESUS CHRIST**.

1. **Psalm 127:1a (NASB)** Unless the **LORD builds the house**, They labor in vain who build it;

2. Paul is speaking **SPIRITUALLY** here, saying that the **LORD MUST BE THE ARCHITECT** of **WHAT HAPPENS IN OUR HOME**.

3. We are to go by **HIS BLUEPRINT** and by **HIS DESIGN**... **HIS WORD**.

a. Just as **CHRIST** is the **CHIEF CORNERSTONE OF THE CHURCH**, so **CHRIST** must be the **CHIEF CORNERSTONE OF THE HOME**.

b. Otherwise we build “in vain”.

C. The **ESSENTIAL BUILDING BLOCK** of any **SOCIETY** is nothing more, nothing less than **WHAT IS TAKING PLACE IN THE HOME**.

1. **NOTE:** The **ORDER** in **Ephesians**...

a. In **Chapter 5** Paul talks about the **HUSBAND-WIFE RELATIONSHIP**.

b. In **Chapter 6** it is the **PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP**.

2. The **ORDER** is very **IMPORTANT** because **THE GREATEST THING YOU CAN DO FOR YOUR CHILDREN IS TO HAVE A HEALTHY RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR SPOUSE**.

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3. **NOTE: HOW PRACTICAL Ephesians is:**

- a. Chapters 1 through 3 are **DOCTRINE**.
- b. Chapters 4 through 6 are **DUTY**.
- c. Chapters 1 through 3 are put in the **indicative mood**, which are **STATEMENT OF FACT**.
- d. Chapters 4 through 6 are put in the **imperative mood**, which are **COMMANDS THAT WE MUST OBEY AND FOLLOW**.

4. Paul has already laid the **DOCTRINAL FOUNDATION** in Ephesians 1-3... now he is **BUILDING ON THAT FOUNDATION with DUTY and COMMANDS** that are to be **OBEYED** and **FOLLOWED**.

4. **Ephesians 6:1-4 (NASB)** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

A. **“CHILDREN”** are to:

1. **“OBEY”** ... that is the **ACTION**.
2. **“HONOR”** ... that is the **ATTITUDE** behind the **ACTION**.
 - a. It is a **ONE-TWO PUNCH!**
 - b. **NOT, EITHER OR... IT IS BOTH.**
 - c. It is **OBEDIENCE FROM THE HEART** THAT **HONORS FATHER and MOTHER**.

3. Refers to those who are **STILL LIVING AT HOME**... under the **ROOF** and the **AUTHORITY** of their **PARENTS**.

- a. **“CHILDREN”** is in the **plural**, so it indicates **ALL CHILDREN**... both **SONS** and **DAUGHTERS** = those who are still **DEPENDANT** upon **PARENTS** both **financially** and for **living expenses**.
- b. So.... **THOSE CHILDREN, “obey your parents”**.

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B. **“OBEY”**

1. **NOTE:** The ENTIRE BIBLE puts a very STRONG EMPHASIS on **“OBEDIENCE”**.
 - a. God is **not** asking something of **“CHILDREN”** that He doesn't ask of **parents and grandparents**.
2. **“OBEDIENCE”** is a **compound word** in the **Greek** and the **root word** is **TO HEAR**.
3. The English word **ACOUSTICS** is derived from this Greek word.
4. There is a prefix in front of the main root word which is **“UNDER”**.
 - a. Literally the word for **“OBEDIENCE”** means to **“HEAR UNDER”** or **“LISTEN UP”**.
 - b. The idea is that **“CHILDREN”** are **UNDER THE AUTHORITY** of their **PARENTS** and they are to **LISTEN UP** to them because **GOD** has placed **PARENTS** in a **POSITION OF AUTHORITY** over the lives of their **“CHILDREN”** and they are to **“HEAR THEM”**.
 - c. **NOTE:** To **“HEAR”** and **NOT** to **“DO”** is **NOT TO “HEAR” AT ALL!**
 - 1) To **“HEAR”** in a **BIBLICAL SENSE** is **always** to **DO** that which you **HEAR**.
5. **“OBEY”** is in the **PRESENT TENSE**... So **“CHILDREN”** are to **ALWAYS BE “OBEYING”** their parents.
6. **“OBEY”** is in the **ACTIVE VOICE** which means that **“CHILDREN” MUST TAKE ACTION**.
 - a. They **CAN NOT SIT PASSIVELY** and **WAIT** for the **PARENT** to **APPLY PRESSURE** upon the son or the daughter for them to **“OBEY”**.

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1) **NO**, it's **INCUMBENT** upon the **“CHILD”** to **TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO “OBEY” = FIRST TIME OBEDIENCE.**

7. **“OBEY”** is in the **IMPERITIVE MOOD** which means that it is a **“COMMAND”**.

C. **“PARENTS”**

1. **“PARENTS”** here is in the PLURAL.

a. That implies **both** the **HUSBAND** and the **WIFE...** and that is **clarified** in verse two, “honor your **father and mother**”.

b. **FATHER** and **MOTHER** are to **SPEAK** with the **SAME VOICE.**

c. **PARENTS** have to be on the **same page** of the **playbook.**

d. You can't have **FATHER** having **one set of standards** and **MOTHER** having a **different set of standards.**

1) That will cause **“CHILDREN”** to be pulled in many **different directions** and they will **play one off of the other.**

2) **DISCUSS: UNEQUALLY YOKED.**

D. **“IN THE LORD”**

1. **“IN THE LORD”** means **“CHILDREN”** are **“OBEYING”** the **Lord Jesus Christ** when they **“OBEY”** their **“PARENTS”** when they **SPEAK** that which **CONFORMS TO THE WILL OF GOD.**

2. **“LORD”** is the **Greek word “KURYOS”.**

a. It means **SOVERIGN, DESPOT, THE SUPREME AUTHORITY, THE LORDSHIP OF JESUS CHRIST.**

b. When Paul uses **“LORD”** 19 times out of 20, it refers to the second person of the Trinity... the **LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

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- c. So even as **CHRIST** is the **HEAD of THE CHURCH**, so **CHRIST** is to be the **HEAD of THE HOME**.
 - d. ... And “**CHILDREN**” are to “**OBEY**” their “**PARENTS**” as “**UNTO THE LORD**”, or “**IN THE LORD**”.
- 3. Colossians 3:20 (NASB)** Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

E. “**FOR THIS IS RIGHT**”

- 1. Colossians 3:20 (NASB)** Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.