



Family: The Blessing of Children

Sunday, May 5, 2024
Ephesians 6:1-3

God intends every aspect of family to be a picture of the gospel. Whether it's the marriage relationship between a man and a woman, or the relationship between parents and their children, God has provided clear expectations and commands. Previously, in Ephesians 5, Paul reminded us that marriage is to reflect the relationship between Christ and the church. In chapter 6, he instructs children and parents how to reflect Christ in our homes.

Family – “primarily, one man and one woman united in matrimony plus natural or adopted children and, secondarily, any other persons related by blood.” Andreas Kostenberger

God's purpose for the family! (Ephesians 5-6; Genesis 1:26-28)

- Expression (of God's glory)
- Dominion (over God's creation)
- Procreation (to fill God's creation)
- Reflection (of the gospel)

God's pattern for children!

Romans 1:28-32 and 2 Timothy 3:1-4 reveal the signs of a culture in demise, “disobedient to parents”

Chip Ingram says, “The parent who balances love and discipline, without compromising either, produces well-adjusted kids who maintain a positive relationship with Mom and Dad.”

- **OBEY - Obedience is an action. (Col. 3:20; Prov. 1:8)**
 - “Obedience is doing what God says, when God says to do it, with the right heart attitude!”
 - “Obedience is doing what you are told, when you are told to do it, with a happy heart.”

- **HONOR - Honor is an attitude. (Exodus 20:12; Leviticus 19:32; Proverbs 23:22; Matthew 15:3-6)**
 - **That it may be well with you** relates to the quality of life,

 - and **that you may live long on the earth** relates to the quantity of life promised.

Proverbs 3:1–2 (NASB95) ¹ My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; ² For length of days and years of life and peace they will add to you.

Luke 2:52 (NASB95) ⁵² And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.