

Series on Marriage and the Family – sermon 11 - 27/06/10 (am)

Honour and Obey your Parents!

Ephesians 6:1-3

*Theme: Children are to obey and
honour their parents.*

The cognitive development (or intellect) of an individual is not the *vital* thing which brings understanding.

The vital thing is the *work of the Spirit* in opening up our understanding to the truth of Scripture.

Regardless of our age we all depend on the Spirit.

A Counter-first-century-culture Command

In 6:1a note that *parents***s** is plural.

This is radically counter-first-century-culture!

The role of a wife as a parent is exalted.

Obedience: Meaning and Motive

Obedience is the child's form of
submission.

It means to recognise parents' authority and act accordingly.

*Child, young person, do you recognise
your parents' authority over you?*

They represent the Lord to you.

If you rebel against your parents, you are
rebellious against God!

Our parents have more life-experience
than us, *cf.* Proverbs 1:8-9.

Parents, are you teaching your children that you have authority over them?

Obedience in the home is training for life!

Children should learn obedience to God through learning obedience to you!

Q. What is the motive for obedience?

A. It is *in the Lord*.

The command is directed to Christian children.

The Christian child should be a model of obedience.

A Blanket Statement?

Is obedience to be rendered in
everything?

No!

A Christian child should only disobey
parents where his/her relationship
with the Lord is involved in a **vital**
sense.

*A child should not sin on the
instruction of parents.*

*A child should not let parents stop
him/her from coming to Christ for
salvation.*

*A Christian child should not let parents
stop him/her from worshipping Jesus
(Matthew 10:34-39).*

*A Christian child must be wise in non-
vital matters!*

Generally, when a person is a minor then obedience to parents should be the norm.

The only legitimate division is one caused by Jesus Himself, *cf.* Matthew 10:34*ff.*

Even [Christian] minors are to be peacemakers, *cf.* Matthew 5:9; Romans 12:18.

Why Should Children Obey their Parents?

1. Natural law. It is right (6:1b). *Cf.* Romans 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:1-5.

2. Scriptural law. The 5th Commandment (6:2-3).

Children must treat their parents with due respect, in public and in private.

What happens if parents behave in a way that makes respect difficult?

Children must obey in all areas that do not conflict with obedience to God.

Regardless of the behaviour of parents, they must always be honoured – even if only for the biological life they gave.

How do we interpret the promise attached to the 5th Commandment?

The Hebrew expression has more to do with experiencing God's blessing—which may include long years—than purely long life. It may also be a reference to social stability.

Conclusion – What you believe is reflected in what you do

Boy, girl, young person, adult: do you obey and honour your parents?

Christianity is essentially what you believe...

...but what you believe must be reflected in what you do.

Faith without works is dead! (6:1-3)