How Children should respond to Parents

Ephesians 6:1-3
7-19-2023

The **Value** of Children

The **Nature** of Children

Who put the parents in charge? God did.

*** CHILDREN MUST CHOOSE TO OBEY & HONOR their parents**

I. Christian children are expected to OBEY their parents (v. 1)
(The child's action is obedience)

Such obedience is to be:

1. **Cheerful -**
2. **Exact**
3. **Immediate**
4. **Continual** (present imperative)
5. **Respectful** - "your parents"
6. **Rightly Motivated** – "in the Lord"
7. **For Righteousness Sake** – "for this is right"
8. **Total** - "in all things" (Colossians 3:20 - KJV)

II. Christian children are expected to HONOR their parents (v.2-3)
(The child's disposition is honor)

"Honor" **=** to view as very valuable, or precious.

God's Promises to children who honor their parents:

1. **Such an attitude results in a top quality life** - *"well with thee . . ."* (v. 3a)

2. **Such an attitude results in a long quantity of life** - *"live long . . ."* (v. 3b)

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By way of introduction, here is a crash course in Biblical Child Anthropology:

The **Value** of Children

1. Children are a gift from God. (Psalm 127:3)
2. God uniquely forms and gifts each child.
3. God loves children and desires that they come to know Christ at an early age (Mt. 19:13-15)

The **Nature** of Children

The Bible teaches that. . .

1. Mankind was originally created in the image and likeness of God. Gen. 1:26a
2. Adam sinned against God and thereby died spiritually and adopted a sin nature. (Gen. 2:17).
3. Adam's descendants were reproduced in his likeness and image. Gen. 5:3 - Rom. 5:12
4. Each child is born with this sinful human nature. Ps. 51:5; Ps. 58:3; Job 14:4; Is. 48:8
5. Because of inherited sinful human nature, each parent can expect the following traits in his/her children:
    a. Each child is prone toward sin.
    b. Each child is basically self-centered.
    c. Each child must be trained and restrained.
        1) Children cannot be left to themselves (Prov. 29:15)
        2) Children must have their sinful tendencies controlled (I Sam. 3:13)
        3) Children are most moldable when they are young (Prov. 22:6)

Due to a child's sin nature, good parents serve as God's tool to protect children from the direction their nature and immaturity would naturally lead them.

Who put the parents in charge? God did.

God ordained parental authority as His means to serve, provide for, protect and direct children.

Children need leadership in areas of:

- Education (where and what)
- Friends (who and when)
- Recreation and entertainment (Cell phone usage; How much and what kind of TV and Internet viewing)
- Diet and Rest (If left alone would they brush their teeth or eat healthy? Would they go to sleep at a decent hour?)

*** CHILDREN MUST CHOOSE TO OBEY & HONOR their parents**

I. Christian children are expected to <u>OBEY</u> their parents (v. 1)
(The child's <u>action</u> is obedience)

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

Such obedience is to be:

1. **<u>Cheerful</u> -**
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8. **<u>Total</u>** - "in all things" (Colossians 3:20 - KJV)

II. Christian children are expected to <u>HONOR</u> their parents (v. 2-3)
(The child's <u>disposition</u> is honor)

"Honor" **=** to view as very <u>valuable, or precious</u>.

God's Promises to children who honor their parents:

1. **Such an attitude results in a <u>top quality</u> life** - *"well with thee . . ."* (v. 3a)

2. **Such an attitude results in a <u>long quantity</u> of life** - *"live long . . ."* (v. 3b)

Obedience and giving honor is <u>good for children</u>!
It will not only provide a better and longer life, but it will also:
1) Teach you <u>patience</u> (to learn to trust and wait on God)
2) Equip you with <u>self-control</u>
3) Get you ready for a <u>career</u> that will demand respect for authority
4) Get you ready for <u>life</u>, which will not always be "fair" or "just"
5) You will reap in your children what you sowed as a child

How Children should respond to Parents

Ephesians 6:1-3

7-19-2023

INTRODUCTION: ILLUS: of boiling a frog in water. Beginning with cool water, the heat is gradually increased. The rise in temperature is so gradual that the frog doesn't even notice it. He simply adjusts to the heat as it rises, and eventually boils to death.

The changing values and standards of society have been so gradual that countless families who should have jumped out of the world's pan a long time ago have now adjusted to the heat and are in the process of being destroyed.

The world's humanistic, so called "futuristic" ideas on parent-child relationships are destroying our country.

One popular speaker even says that he looks for a world where there will be no schools, no families, and no parent-child relationships. He says, "To free the child, we must do away with parenthood and marriage. We must settle for nothing less than the total elimination of the family."

One of the major goals of Marxist socialism is to liberate children from the home and make them the property of the state. A child out of the home will not be taught any moral, religious, social, patriotic, or political standards or attitudes that are contrary to what the state wants (MacArthur, p. 309).

Gal. 6:7 - Whether you are a parent or a child, your present circumstances are a result of past choices. Are you pleased with your present situation? Your future circumstances will be a result of your present choices.

God has a plan for parent-child relationships. And it works! Trust Him!

It doesn't matter how your parents did it, how your friends do it, how the child psychologist advises. The question is: "What saith the Scripture?"

By way of introduction, here is a crash course in Biblical Anthropology:

The Value of Children

1. Children are a gift from God. (Psalm 127:3)

Jacob said regarding his children: "The children which God hath graciously given thy servant" (Gen. 33:5)

He . . . "maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the Lord" (Ps. 113:9)

Ruth 4:13 - "…Lord gave her (Ruth) conception, and she bare a son."

2. God uniquely forms and gifts each child.

a. Psalm 139:13-18 –

b. Jer. 1:5 - "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (cp. II Cor. 4:7)

3. God loves children and desires that they come to know Christ at an early age (Mt. 19:13-15)

Abortion De-values the Life of Children

The following biblical principles must be applied to the issue of abortion:

1. Children are a gift from God (Ps. 127:3)

2. Conception is an act of God (Ruth 4:13)

3. The unborn child is a distinct human life from conception
   a. The baby in the womb is alive (Ps. 51:5)
   b. The baby in the womb is a person (Ps. 139:13; Jer. 1:5)
   c. The baby in the womb is known by God (Ps. 139:13-15)
   d. The baby in the womb is developed by God (Ps. 94:9, 139:13-16)

4. To kill a baby while in the womb is murder! (Exod. 21:22-23)

   a. Even in the cases of rape and incest, the unborn child should not be condemned to death because of the sin of the father (Ezek. 18:4, 20; cp. Deut. 24:16)
   b. Taking life is the prerogative of God (Dt.32:39)
   c. God hates hands that shed innocent blood (Prov. 6:17, 24:11-12)
   d. Child sacrifice defiles a country (Lev.18:21)
   e. God requires blood when blood is shed (Num. 35:33; Exodus 21:22-25)

The Nature of Children

The Bible teaches that. . .

1. **Mankind was originally created in the image and likeness of God.**
   Gen. 1:26a - "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness"

2. **Adam sinned against God and thereby died spiritually and adopted a sin nature.**
   ". . . in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die" (Gen. 2:17).
   "And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins" (Eph. 2:1).

3. **Adam's descendants were reproduced in his likeness and image.**

   Gen. 5:3 - "And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth."

   Rom. 5:12 - "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned."

4. **Each child is born with this sinful human nature.**

   Ps. 51:5 - "Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me."
   Ps. 58:3 - "The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies."
   Job 14:4 - "Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? Not one."
   Is. 48:8 - ". . . I knew that thou wouldest deal very treacherously, and was called a transgressor from the womb."

5. **Because of inherited sinful human nature, each parent can expect the following traits in his/her children:**

   a. Each child is prone toward sin.

   b. Each child is basically self-centered.

   c. Each child must be trained and restrained.

      1) Children cannot be left to themselves
         (Prov. 29:15 - "The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame")

      2) Children must have their sinful tendencies controlled
         (I Sam. 3:13 - "For I have told him that I will judge his house for ever for the iniquity which he knoweth; because his sons made themselves vile, and he restrained them not")

The most cruel form of "child abuse" is to ignore your child's needs for self-control and to do nothing to help him/her learn how to restrain the sinful tendencies that seek to enslave him/her.

3) Children are most moldable when they are young (Prov. 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it")

Our children are like arrows (Ps. 127:4) -- they must be pointed and launched in the right direction.

Our children are like wet cement - they take the impression of whatever you do to them.

Our children are like unhardened clay - pliable to the way you shape them.

Our children are like a tender twig - that we want to bend toward a certain direction. The twig "is to be bent with caution, not broken in the efforts of a rude and hasty zeal" (Eadie, p. 262).

Due to a child's sin nature, good parents serve as God's tool to protect children from the direction their nature and immaturity would naturally lead them.

Who put the parents in charge?
God did.
God ordained parental authority as His means to serve, provide for, protect and direct children.

Parents have the responsibility to serve their children by providing for them, keeping them safe from harm, and providing guidance and leadership in their lives.

Authorities are in a sense God's "tools" He uses authorities as His "tools" to accomplish His will. The authority functions in a sense like a mediator.

It is sometimes necessary for authorities to utilize force to restrain rebellion and to protect those you are responsible for. For example, Government will use handcuffs and prison when necessary; A good church will use church discipline when necessary; and a good parent will use proper methods of child training including physical chastisement to restrain rebellion and to teach.

When it comes to a parents responsibility for their children, neither government, school, church or any nosey individual has authority over your children. God did not give children to the government, He gave them to you as parents. You as a parent are ultimately responsible. Now you can delegate responsibility, but you are the immediate authority in that child's life.

Without authority you have NO:

1. **Order** (no structure; no chain of command)

2. **Direction** (each does what is right in his/her own eyes; Note: children cannot govern themselves)

3. **Protection** (each is out for their own protection)

Children desperately need leadership (they will get it from someone; their peers, gangs, cults)

Children need leadership in areas of:
- Education (where and what)
- Friends (who and when)
- Recreation and entertainment (Cell phone usage; How much and what kind of TV and Internet viewing)
- Diet and Rest (If left alone would they brush their teeth or eat healthy? Would they go to sleep at a decent hour?)

Don't "pass the buck" to the Christian school or church. It's your job to train your children.

Our nation is being systematically overrun with rebellion. Rebellion & disobedience from children is a mark of the "last days"

2 Timothy 3:2 "For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy…"

When God judges a nation, rebellion & disobedience from children are a sign:

Romans 1:30 "…Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents"

The prophet Isaiah said to Israel (who were about to be judged by God)
"the people shall be oppressed, every one by another, and every one by his neighbour: the child shall behave himself proudly against the ancient, and the base against the honourable….. children are their oppressors, and women rule over them." (Isaiah 3:5,12)

God's principles are for God's people. What is a Christian parent to expect from their children? How are Christian children to respond to their parents?
Ephesians 6:1-3 has the answer.

*** CHILDREN MUST CHOOSE TO OBEY & HONOR their parents**

I. Christian children are expected to OBEY their parents (v. 1)

(The child's action is obedience)

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

God told Saul: "To obey is better than sacrifice" (I Sam. 15:22).

Such obedience is to be:

1. Cheerful -

"Obey" = hupokouo" - lit. to listen with a submissive heart. Hence, to hear what your parents say and do it. This word translated “Obey” is to do what you are told whether you want to or not.

(Attitude is just as important as action)

2. Exact

Also, the word “hupokouo” means to do exactly what you are told.

(Example: Doing something half way or in the wrong way - not according to the parents instructions)

Children should not be permitted to question why they should obey.

However, children may question what the command was (providing, he/she did not clearly hear or understand the request).

Also, children may ask permission to appeal the command.
That is, they may ask if they may say something in regards to the command given. If a child believes that the request of the parents is unreasonable he/she may with a humble spirit ask the parent who gave the request if he/she would reconsider. If the answer is no, the child should accept the decision as God's will for him/her.

3. Immediate

A child is expected to do what he/she is told on the expected timetable of the parent

- Delayed obedience is disobedience.
- Incomplete obedience is disobedience.

4. **<u>Continual</u>** (present imperative)

Young men, as long as you are under their roof, you are obligated to obey them; young ladies, as long as you are under your parents' authority (until you get married), you are obligated to obey them.

In I Cor. 7:37-38 and Num. 30:3-f – an unmarried woman is under the authority of her father until he gives her away in marriage.

5. **<u>Respectful</u>** - "your parents"

"your parents"

A child is to respect based on the <u>position</u> of the parents, more than because of parent's personal character. EX: We submit to a police officer because of his position. We submit to our elders because of their position. We submit to our teacher because of his position.

Respect their God-given <u>position</u> over you. Even if you are <u>bigger</u> than . . . <u>smarter</u> than . . . or <u>stronger</u> than. . . you are to obey them because they are your <u>parents</u>.

It may be that they have a character, career, or conduct that is not worthy of respect. However, you should still respect them for their position's sake. They are "your parents"

6. **Rightly Motivated** – "in the Lord"

The phrase ***"in the Lord"*** teaches three things:

It shows that the children being addressed are <u>Christians</u>.

It shows that the obedience is for the Lord's sake, to please the Lord.

If shows that the obedience is to model the same pattern as you would obey the Lord.

Children are to obey their parents just as all believers are to obey the Lord. Why? Because parents are the authority, just as the Lord is your authority.

The only time you can disobey your parents is if they ask you to do something sinful (Our Lord would never ask this of His children). At this point a child has a higher authority to obey – God's authority!

7. **For Righteousness Sake** – “for this is right”

"for this is right"

The reason to obey parents is brief and simple: "For this is right" (correct, just, righteous).

If a contemporary, modern, liberal Bible was written by man, Eph. 6:1 would say, "Parents, obey your children, for this will keep them happy and bring peace to the home" (Wiersbe, p. 150).

One problem - This is <u>not</u> right! Contrary to God's order in nature (even baby animals are taught to obey their parents).

NOTE: God did not say "obey for this is <u>popular</u>" (II Tim. 3:2) or "for this is <u>easy</u>" (indeed it is often difficult) or "for they are <u>worthy</u>" (many are not).

Rather, He said, ***"for this is RIGHT."***

The <u>reason</u> for obedience is simple. “this is <u>right</u>!”

Also, it <u>pleases God</u> (Colossians 3:20).

God commends the obedient, and condemns the disobedient. To be under the <u>displeasure</u> of God is a dreadful predicament.

A <u>good</u> life and a <u>long</u> life is promised to children who obey their parents (Eph. 6:2).

Parents: Do you want your children to <u>please</u> God? (and thereby be under His blessing?). Then expect nothing less than complete obedience from them. Your motive in expecting obedience should not be your own peace but their well-being.

Respect for parents is so serious that God told Moses: "He who <u>strikes</u> (physically disrespects) his father or his mother shall surely be put to death"; and "He who <u>curses</u> (verbal disrespect) his father or his mother shall surely be put to death" (Ex. 21:15, 17; cp. Lev. 20:9; Proverbs 20:20; 30:11-f).

8. **<u>Total</u>** - "in all things" (Colossians 3:20 - KJV)

Obedience is not to be partial, but total (God does not qualify the obedience). However, the only exception is if your parents ask you to <u>sin</u> (to directly violate a Scriptural principle - cp. Acts 4:19-20, 5:29).

II. Christian children are expected to HONOR their parents (v. 2-3)

(The child's disposition is honor)

"Honor" = to view as very valuable, or precious.

Today, far too many children treat their parents like garbage. No respect for those who brought them into this world, fed, clothed, and schooled them.

How do children show honor?

1) By obeying them without complaint
(Having the right attitude will produce right action)

2) By speaking respectfully to them and about them to others.

Never refer to your parents as "my old man" or "my old lady"
Children ought to address their elders with respect:
"Yes Sir" or "No Mam" "Mr. _____" or "Mrs._____"

3) By providing for parents (when they cannot)
(Mt. 15:3-6) (NOTE: Money is no substitute for love)
Note: The Bible teaches we ought to respect the aged:
(Lev.19:32; Job.12:12)

Even if they are not believers, they are your parents, and you owe them love and respect.

God's Promises to children who honor their parents:

1. Such an attitude results in a top quality life - *"well with thee . . ."* (v. 3a)

Paul is quoting one of the 10 commandments (Ex. 20:12). This is the only one of the 10 that deals with the family. Why only one! Because if this command was kept, a child would learn the most important lesson of his life -respect for authority.
From this would flow respect for others, for leaders, and most of all for God!

"Well with thee" - they will stay out of things that shorten life and that take the real fun out of life!

2. Such an attitude results in a long quantity of life - *"live long . . ."* (v. 3b)

"This does not mean that everyone who died young dishonored his parents. Paul is stating a principle: When children obey their parents in the Lord, they will escape a good deal of sin and danger and thus avoid the things that could threaten or shorten their lives" (Wiersbe, p. 152).

God can mightily use young people who will respect your parents!
As a boy:

Samuel walked with God, Josiah became king and started a spiritual revival, David fought Goliath, Daniel stood up for God and would not eat the king's meat or drink wine.

Obedience and giving honor is good for children!

It will not only provide a better and longer life, but it will also:

1) Teach you patience (to learn to trust and wait on God)

2) Equip you with self-control

3) Get you ready for a career that will demand respect for authority

4) Get you ready for life, which will not always be "fair" or "just"

5) You will reap in your children what you sowed as a child