The Fatherhood of Father Abraham

Genesis 18:19
6/17/2012

Introduction: Abraham is promised a son (Genesis 12:1-3)

Abraham's Ultimate Test of Faith regarding his son (Genesis 22:1-19)

Genesis 18:19
For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

What did God see in Abraham that would make him a faithful father?

Gen.18:19

I. God foreknew that Abraham would <u>TEACH/TRAIN</u> his household to live Godly lives
"Command his children" = *<u>discipline/training</u>*

II. God foreknew that Abraham would <u>MODEL</u> the righteous life for his family to follow
"After him" = *<u>example</u>; He would <u>exemplify</u> righteousness*

III. God foreknew that Abraham would <u>EXPECT OBEDIENCE</u> to God's ways
"They shall keep the way" = *<u>Obedience</u>*

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Introduction:

In 2,165 B.C. there was born one of the most famous men to ever live.

He was to grow up in a wealthy, populated, and sophisticated pagan city - called Ur of the Chaldees (220 miles south of Baghdad in southern Mesopotamia).

He was to become the father of the Jewish nation, an example to all people, and a friend of God.

His name was Abraham.

Abraham is one of the few people ever to be called a "friend of God" by God.

Is. 41:8 - "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend."

II Chron. 20:7 - "Art not thou our God, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel, and gavest it to the seed of Abraham thy friend for ever?"

Ja. 2:23 - "And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God."

Gen. 11:27 – 25:11 is a big literary unit in Genesis which primarily focuses on God's dealings in and through one man: Abram (later to be called "Abraham").

Whenever God is about to do a great work, He usually starts with one person. A faithful man like Noah. . . Abraham. . . Joseph. . . Moses. . . John the Baptist, etc.

God makes faithful promises to Abraham (See Genesis 12:1-3)

God promises Abraham a LAND (v.1)

"The Lord had said" – God at various times and in various ways spoke in times past (cp. Heb. 1:1); God did not wind up the clock of the universe and then step back and have no direct involvement with that creation. No, He has spoken.

Faith and obedience are always the response of a person who has an encounter with God.

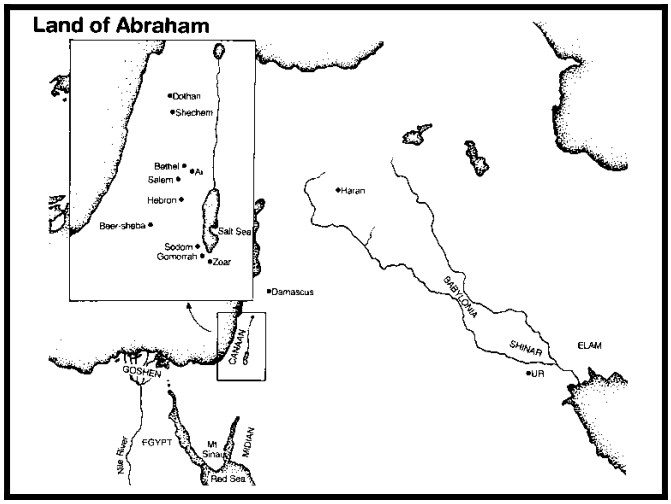
This call to move out came to Abraham while in Ur of the Chaldees (Acts 7:2); Abraham obeyed the call; however, when he moved, his family moved out with him. They went as far as Haran (11:31-32). God's intention was for Abraham and Sarah to leave all family because God was to begin a new race of people just with Abraham. The Jewish race was about to be born.

God is here calling upon Abraham to leave: 1) "country" 2) "kindred" (extended family) and even 3) "thy father's house" (immediate family)

God took a man out of a pagan culture and out of an idolatrous family (Josh. 24:2) and would use him to make a new beginning.

God still calls upon His people today to separate from the corruption around them ("Come out from among them and be ye separate"). Moral, personal, and ecclesiastical separation are vital elements to true holiness.

"Unto a land" – This land would be a gift from God to Abraham and his descendents. Since God made the world, He has the right to give any part of it to anyone He wishes. That land (Canaan), now called "Israel" or "Palestine" was the most strategic piece of property in the ancient Near East. It was the "land bridge of the world," a location strategic for evangelism.



God promises Abraham a SEED (v.2)

God promises Abraham fertility, fortune, and fame.

"I will make of thee a great nation" – At this time Sarah was barren (11:30). She could have no child even through her 80's; however, when God promises something, though it seems improbable or impossible, He will follow through with whatever He says.

"I will bless thee" – "This promise was fulfilled in Abraham temporal blessings (13:2; 24:35), spiritual blessings (21:22), and fame (23:6; Is. 41:8)." (Ryrie note).

"I will bless thee. . . thou shalt be a blessing" – God tells Abraham what He would do to him and through him. God must work for us and in us before He can mightily work through us.

Abraham was to be a blessing due to God's blessing upon him. One reason God blesses you is so that you in return can bless others with the blessing God blessed you with.

Abraham's Ultimate Test of Faith
Genesis 22:1-19

v. 1

"God did tempt Abraham" - Not a solicitation to sin in the sense of gratifying an inward lust (for God does not tempt in that way – James 1:13). But a test of Abraham's faith. The ultimate test!

We have the vantage point of seeing that this was only a test. As far as Abraham knew, this was not just a test, but a real sacrifice of his son.

"Our faith is not really tested until God asks us to bear what seems unbearable, do what seems unreasonable, and expect what seems impossible." (EX: Joseph in prison or Moses at the Red Sea, etc.) (Wiersbe, p. 110).

"Behold, here I am" - "At your service, Lord." "I'm all ears." Does God get our full attention as He speaks via His written word?

v.3-4 - Abraham did (through faith) what God told him to do

v. 2

Faith obeys!

"Thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest" – With every phrase, God intensifies the close relationship Abraham had with his son.

Hebrews 11:17-19 -
By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son, Of whom it was said, That in Isaac shall thy seed be called: Accounting that God was able to raise him up, even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure.

Heb.11:17

"The promises" - God's unconditional promises:

1) That Abraham's descendents would be as numerous as the stars of the heaven (Gen. 15:5).

2) I will *"multiply thee exceedingly"* (Gen. 17:2)

3) Gen. 17:19 - *"And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him."*

The proof of Abraham's faith was his willingness (even after a century of waiting and wondering) to give back to God the treasure he had, the son of promise (MacArthur, p. 335).

God's intention was to see if Abraham loved Him more than he loved Isaac.

"Only begotten" - (cp. Jn. 3:16) - here is a proof that the term *"monogenes"* refers to uniqueness not origin, because Isaac, in fact, was not Abraham's only son; he also had Ishmael before Isaac was born, and he had other children by Keturah, who Abraham married after Sarah's death (Gen. 25:1-6).

Heb.11:19

Although Isaac did not die on the altar, his rising up off of it serves as a "figure" or type of Christ's rising from the dead.

The offering of Isaac was not only a test of faith, but that event served as a type or foreshadowing of God offering up His only begotten (unique) son.

The mountain of Moriah (Gen. 22:2) was the same location (in Jerusalem) where Solomon's temple was built (II Chron. 3:1) and sacrifices were made, and where the Messiah (Jesus Christ) would eventually be sacrificed.

"Offer him there for a burnt offering" - There was not yet a law on the books forbidding child sacrifice; this would later, in the days of Moses, be prohibited in the Law (Deut. 12:31, 18:10; Lev. 18:21) and only pagans would practice it (2

Kings 3:26; Jer. 7:31; Micah 6:7). However, at this time, God was not asking Abraham to violate a specific law.

v. 3
When is obedience really obedience? We see in Abraham that he obeyed God:

1) Without delay (Immediately) – God says "now" (v. 2) and Abraham obeyed "early in the morning" (at the crack of dawn Abraham was cracking wood). Delayed obedience is not obedience.

2) Without question – Abraham believed God enough not to question Him when asked to offer Isaac.

3) Without complaint – If anyone ever could feel justified in arguing about a divine order, it would have been Abraham.

4) With precision – He did exactly what he was told. As hard as it must have been, Abraham took God literally and prepared for the sacrifice.

5) At great cost (sacrificially) – He would give up that which was most precious to him, his greatest treasure. Abraham, an old man, would have to travel 50 miles (a three-day journey) from Beersheba to the area of Jerusalem.

6) Completely – He obeyed thoroughly, doing every detail God commanded.

God's commanding Abraham to offer up Isaac seemed inconsistent with God's promise to raise up a numerous nation (Gen. 15:5, 17:2) through Isaac (Gen. 17:19) – yet Abraham believed and obeyed, and by his sacrificial obedience proved that his faith of the last 30 years was real.

Abraham's attempted sacrifice of Isaac was the one event James pointed to when he proved in James 2 that faith—real, living faith—produces works.

Abraham was "justified" or proven to be righteous by his works, particularly his work of offering up Isaac (James 2:21-24 - Was not Abraham our father justified by works, when he had offered Isaac his son upon the altar? Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? And the scripture was fulfilled which saith, Abraham believed God, and it was imputed unto him for righteousness: and he was called the Friend of God. Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only.)

v.5-10 - Abraham saw (through faith) what God wanted him to see

Faith trusts!

v. 5
"I and the lad . . . will come again to you" – Abraham was so confident that God would fulfill the promises He made concerning Isaac, that he knew Isaac would return, even if it meant returning back to life after death.

"In the final analysis Isaac would be brought twice from the dead, once from Sarah's dead womb and once again from the high altar. The book of Hebrews suggests that Abraham concluded that God was able to raise Isaac from the dead (11:19). Whether Abraham had actually worked out the details of a bodily resurrection would be hard to say. People in the ancient world believed that life would continue beyond the grave, but a clear understanding of resurrection to this life began to unfold only later." (Ross, p. 298).

Note: "Worship" here is not defined as receiving from God or even praying to God, but the essence of worship is giving to God. We worship God by giving God adoration, obedience, and sacrifice.

v. 6
It would only be father and son at the sacrifice. No one else would have any involvement. Why? Because Isaac was typifying Christ's future sacrifice which would be an ordeal just between God the Father and God the Son. God the Father would lay on Him (Jesus the son) the iniquity of us all (Is. 53:6, 10).

v. 8
"God will provide himself a lamb" – In the immediate sense, Abraham could see God providing the sacrifice for Himself; in the ultimate sense (although he had no way of comprehending all of the details that would be involved), Abraham could see God providing the ultimate Lamb for Himself ("the lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world – Jn. 1:29).

Abraham here speaks mysteriously and prophetically of God's future provision of an atoning sacrifice for sin.

"God will provide himself" – With no help from anyone, God (*Jehovah Jirah* – v. 14) would provide His own sacrifice. Nothing we offer is efficacious. God's own lamb is all He needs, and all He wants! We dare not add to His work! No other sacrifice will do!

It wasn't the Jews, nor the Romans who crucified Jesus. It was God the Father, who did so to make an atoning sacrifice for our sins!

God gave us His son (Rom. 8:32 - He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?)

v. 9
"The place which God had told him of" - Mt. Moriah.

Abraham would have climbed to the highest peak for this sacrifice. Presently, this peak is the area known as Gordon's Calvary, where General Gordon discovered a skull-shaped quarried mountain, where it is believed Jesus was crucified.

Mount Moriah – God's place of Sacrifice

1. Moriah was the mountain God told Abraham to offer His son, Isaac. (Genesis 22)

2. Moriah was the mountain God told David to Build an Altar to stop the Death Angel from destroying the Israelites
(II Samuel 24:18-f)

3. Moriah was the mountain God chose to put His name there and to build the Temple for sacrifices (Deut.12:5,11,14,18; 16:6; II Chron 3:1; II Sam.24:16-24)

4. Moriah was the Mountain God chose to sacrifice His Son upon for the sin of the world
(John 19:17)

Abraham had such a trust in God and such a consistent testimony lived out in front of Isaac his son, that he had his son's <u>complete trust</u> (real faith is <u>respected</u>).

Isaac's confidence in Abraham is amazing. Without giving a fight or argument, Isaac submits to his authority and allows his dad to bind him and place him on the altar.

v.11-19 - Abraham <u>received</u> (through faith) what God wanted him to receive

v. 11
This **"angel (messenger) of the LORD"** is a theophany (an appearance of God's Son) because He <u>speaks</u> as God (note v. 12 – "from Me"); He <u>identifies</u> Himself as God (note v. 15-16) and He claims the <u>prerogatives</u> of God (v. 17)

v. 12
It was never God's intention to have Abraham slay his son; He simply wanted to <u>prove</u> his faith and to provide a <u>foreshadowing</u> of God offering up "His only begotten Son" (Jn. 3:16).

"I know that thou fearest God" – Abraham's deep reverence for God was anchored in his real faith in God. Faith respects God enough to give Him anything He asks for.

When we hold back on God, it is due to the fact that we don't fear (respect) God, which is due to the fact that our faith is either non-existent or weak.

v. 13
Perhaps the ram was there al the time, but Abraham never saw it until God opened his eyes (cp. Gen. 21:19).

"In the stead of his son" – The idea of substitutionary sacrifice goes all the way back to the beginning of time (after the fall in the garden).

Just as God provided a sacrifice instead of Abraham's son, He has provided a sacrifice instead of you. Jesus took your place and paid your penalty on the cross.

v. 14
"Jehovah-Jireh" – "The Lord will see to it" or "The Lord will provide." And He did so, when Christ died on this very Mount Moriah.

v. 17
God promises Abraham:

1. <u>Blessing</u>

Blessing always comes to those who don't hold back from God. When we give Him what He asks for, He gives back in immeasurable amounts!

2. <u>Descendents</u>

Numerous like the stars of the sand.

3. Power

To be fulfilled by the conquest of Canaan under Joshua.

4. Global Influence

As Christ, the ultimate seed, which would flow from Isaac, would bless the world.

> Gal. 3:8, 16 – And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed. Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.

Context of Genesis 18:19

The Lord knew that He could entrust to Abraham revelation about His righteousness because Abraham would pass it on to his descendents.

"Abraham knew more about Sodom's future than the citizens themselves, including Lot. It is the separated believer who shares God's secrets" (Wiersbe, p. 78).

Today, only God's people know in much detail what God has in store for the future. The rest of the world is in darkness.

If a person is not obeying what he already has been entrusted with, God will not give him any more. (SEE: Matt. 25:14-30 *v. 29; *Luke 8:15-21)
Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath (been faithful with what he has been given) shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not (been faithful) shall be taken away even that which he hath.
Luke 8:18 Take heed therefore how ye hear: for whosoever hath, to him shall be given; and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seemeth to have.

"No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Ps. 84:11).

Genesis 18:19
For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do justice and judgment; that the LORD may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.

God could trust Abraham with special revelation because Abraham was trustworthy. Abraham's influential and righteous character qualified him for a close communion with God.

Abraham, the faithful father:

What did God see in Abraham that would make him a faithful father?

v. 19

I. God foreknew that Abraham would <u>TEACH/TRAIN</u> his household in righteous living

***"Command his children"* =** <u>discipline/training; To give direction</u>

Many animals mature to adulthood in two years or less, but a child requires 18 years! Why the difference? Children, unlike animals, have a <u>spiritual</u> nature which requires the inculcation of <u>moral</u> truth. God intends for Christian parents not to just "raise" their children by feeding, clothing, and protecting them, but to "train the soul" of the child so as to produce an inner character that agrees with God's standards.

Prov. 22:6 - ***"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."*** This is an axiomatic, eternal principle and promise from God (NOTE: context describing causes and resultant effects)

"Train" = to <u>begin</u>, or <u>initiate</u> a young child in the right direction. To start out right.

Same word as when Solomon initiated/dedicated the newly-constructed Temple (I Ki. 8:63; II Chron. 7:5)
The word originally meant to *"rub the palate"* of a child with chewed dates to get it to acquire a taste for food; EX: midwives would rub palate with <u>oil</u> before child began to suck. The word means to make <u>experienced</u> or <u>accustomed</u> to what you want (as a horse gets accustomed to being directed by a rope in its mouth) (BDB, p. 335)

If we get our children <u>accustomed</u> to what is right, they won't depart!

"The way" = the proper <u>road</u>
"Old" = mature
"It" = the way (road) we trained them on

"Parents are commanded by God to initiate or start their child in a certain direction. He is not to be allowed to follow the path his nature would take him, but he is to be set on a new path. Dedication is not just a one-time initiation, but incorporates the entire training process. The result of the training is for this new way to become the child's own way of life. When this training transpires, the child will not leave the path even as he grows older and becomes an adult. . . Parents are not to wait for a child to choose his own way of life, but are to place him on the right

path in early childhood. . . Parents must act as the external control over a child while he is developing his own internal controls. The parents' role is not to remain as the child's control for the rest of his life, but gradually to work themselves out of this job as early as possible." (Fugate, p. 65-66)

Through the proper parental example, training, and discipline of our children, we should desire that God develop their character by building in them the following traits:

1) Spiritual desire
2) A sensitive conscience
3) Sincere motives
4) Self-discipline or self-control
5) Personal initiative
6) Personal responsibility

Ways in which parents <u>fail</u> in teaching their children responsibility:

1. When their child is accused of wrong, they immediately take their child's side (Prov. 18:13).

2. When their child makes a mess, the parent always cleans it up.

3. So as to prevent their child from failing in a responsibility (Ex: school homework), the parent does it for them.

4. When their child gets in trouble, the parent always immediately bails them out without holding them accountable.

5. Many parents simply fail to oversee their child's behavior and actions, so they run wild!

Abraham, like all Godly parents, was aware of inherited sinful human nature, each parent can expect the following traits in his/her children:

a. Each child is <u>prone toward sin</u>.

"A child need not be taught how to lie, to be selfish, or to do wrong; these things come naturally. Every sweet, innocent, cuddly baby possesses within his flesh the constant temptation to fulfill the strong desire of sin." (Fugate, p. 49)

b. Each child is basically self-centered.

"He wants what he wants when he wants it. A child wants to be fed what and when he wishes, to have the total attention of others, to play always, and generally to have his every desire fulfilled without regard for anyone else. . . Even when a child conducts himself with acceptable behavior, he may be acting out of self-interest to gain attention or future reward. . . The nature of sin will motivate a child to do whatever bad, or even good, that he thinks will cause benefit to himself. When parents recognize that the natural, normal tendency of their child is to satisfy his own sinful nature, they are ready to become successful parents" (Fugate, p. 50).

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).

Four Stages of Maturity:

1. 0-5 years - Disciplinary Stage - must establish parental authority

2. 6-13 years - Training Stage - must give what & why info.

3. 14-19 years - Coaching Stage - give more responsibility (train toward independence)

4. 19 & up - Friend Stage - Adult to adult. Give advice when it is requested.

II. God foreknew that Abraham would MODEL the righteous life for his family to copy

"After him" = example
He would exemplify righteousness

1Ti 4:12 Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.

"Be thou an example" (present, middle, imperative - *ginou* from *ginomai*) - Become thou. Regardless of your past, start setting a good example. Perhaps you have been a failure in your past; this word points to a new beginning.

The present tense implies a continual (lifelong) example.

The middle voice implies choice and determination (an act of the will) that you will decide to be exemplary.

The imperative mood implies that it is an obligation not an option for you to be the right example.

"Example" - *tupos* from which we translate "type."

Tupos primarily denoted "a blow" (from a root tup--, seen also in tupto, "to strike"), hence,
(a) an impression, the mark of a "blow," <John 20:25>;
(b) the "impress" of a seal, the stamp made by a die, a figure, image, <Acts 7:43>;
(c) a "form" or mold, <Rom. 6:17> (see RV);
(d) the sense or substance of a letter, <Acts 23:25>;
(e) "an ensample," pattern, <Acts 7:44; Heb. 8:5>, "pattern"; in an ethical sense, <1 Cor. 10:6; Phil. 3:17; 1 Thes. 1:7; 2 Thes. 3:9; 1 Tim. 4:12>,
(from Vine's Expository Dictionary of Biblical Words)
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Men, we need to be . . .

--a mold worth duplicating.
--a pattern worth copying
--a model worth imitating

"Of the believers" - God is not calling upon us to model the world (TV examples), but what a believer should be.

--He has unique standards for His children.

--He is not calling upon the lost to be an example (they cannot be).

Example . . .

1) Example plays an important part in th formation of character; and its influence is felt more than that of precept.

> "Children possess an imitative disposition. They look up to their parents as the pattern or model of their character, and conclude what they do is right and worthy of their imitation." (Rev. S. Phillips, 1858, The Christian Home, cited in Teaching and Learning America's Christian History, the Principle Approach, by Rosalie J. Slater).

2) Example may be good or bad (it is never neutral).

3) Example is teaching by action
Thus, the child is a living commentary upon his/her home and his/her parents. The child is the moral reproduction of the parent (whatever you sow will be reaped).

4) Example instructs a child before he/she can learn to speak and understand words (Phillips)

(Children from birth are like "walking camcorders" recording everything they see visually and audibly in your life and home)

**** Dad, your family needs you to be an example worth following!***

III. God foreknew that Abraham would EXPECT OBEDIENCE to God's ways

"They shall keep the way" = Obedience

"He will command his children" –

The Lord had confidence that Abraham would guide his family in the ways of God.

One way to see how righteous a man is, is to see how he directs his family. Abraham (in contrast to Priest Eli in the time of young Samuel) would discipline his children, require obedience from them; he no doubt would teach them God's Word (as revealed to him) and set the right example.

Although Abraham lived in a pagan society, he, like Joshua, would say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Eph. 6:1
Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.

"Obey" = implies a readiness to hear; a humble listening so as to do what you're told.

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

Delayed obedience is disobedience.

Incomplete obedience is disobedience.
(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.

"your parents"
A child is to respect based on the position 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.

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

It shows that the children being addressed are Christians.

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).

"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 not right! Contrary to God's order in nature (even baby animals are taught to obey their parents).

Obedience is good for children!

Obedience not only provides a better and longer life, but also:

1) Obedience teaches children patience
(to learn to trust and wait on God)

2) Obedience quips children with self-control

3) Obedience gets children ready for a career that will demand respect for authority

4) Obedience gets children ready for life, which will not always be "fair" or "just"

5) Your children will reap in their children what they themselves sowed as a child

Conclusion:

We've all seen the deep hurt and devastation that fatherlessness brings into a child's life. Our prisons are full of men and women who have lived recklessly after being abandoned by their fathers, wounded by the men who should have loved them the most. Many of these children now follow the same pattern of irresponsibility that their fathers did.

While so many mothers have sacrificed to help their children survive, they were never intended to carry the weight alone. We thank God for them, but research is proving that a child also desperately needs a daddy. There's no way around this fact. . .

We need to realize how crucial our role as a father is. I believe that God desires for every father to courageously step up and do whatever it takes to be involved in the lives of their children. But more than just being there, providing for them, he is to walk with them through their young lives, and be a visual representation of the character of God, their Father in heaven.

A father should love his children and seek to win their hearts. He should protect them, discipline them, and teach them about God. He should model how to walk with integrity and treat others with respect. He should call out his children to become responsible men and women who live their lives for what matters in eternity.

Some men will hear this and mock it or ignore it, but I tell you that as a father , you are accountable to God for the position of influence He has given you. You can't fall asleep at the wheel, only to wake up one day and realize that your job or your hobbies have no eternal value, but the souls of your children do.

Some men will hear this and agree with it, but have no resolve to live it out. Instead, they will live for themselves and waste the opportunity to leave a godly legacy for the next generation.

But there are some men who, regardless of the mistakes we've made in the past, regardless of what our father did not do for us, will give the strength of our arms and the rest of our days to love God with all that we are, and to teach our children to do the same. And whenever possible, to love and mentor others who have no father in their lives but desperately need help and direction.

We are inviting any man whose heart is willing and courageous, to join in this resolution.

In my home the decision has already been made. You don't have to ask who will guide my family, because by God's grace, I will. You don't have to ask who will teach my children to follow Christ, because I will.

Who will accept the responsibility of providing and protecting my family? I will. Who will ask God to break the chain of destructive patterns in my family's history? I will. Who will pray for and bless my children to boldly pursue whatever God calls them to do? I am their father. I will.

I accept my responsibility, and it is my privilege to embrace it. I want the favor of God and His blessing on my home. Any good man does.

So where are you men of courage? Where are you, fathers who fear the Lord? It's time to rise up and answer the call that God has given to you. And to say, I will. . . I will . . . I WILL.

At this time, I want to call forward the following men, who have determined by God's grace, to make this resolution in their own lives for the sake of their families:

MY RESOLUTION

I do solemnly resolve before God
to take full responsibility
for myself, my wife and my children.

I will love them, protect them, and serve them.

I will teach them the statutes of God
as the spiritual leader of my home.

I will be faithful to my wife, to love and honor her,
and be willing to lay down my life for her as Christ did for me.

I will teach my children to love God with all of their heart,
all of their mind, and all of their strength.

I will train them to honor authority and live responsibly.

I will set an example of faithfulness in my walk
with the Lord and in my service for Him.

I will work diligently to provide for the needs of my family.

I will walk in integrity as a man answerable to God.

I will seek to honor God, obey His Word, and do His will.

I recognize that I must rely exclusively upon
the grace and power of God to fulfill this resolution.
I submit to His strength and wisdom.

"As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

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June 17, 2012