What Godly Mothers Deserve from their Children

(A Mother's Day Message)
Selected Scriptures
5/8/2011



The <u>Needs</u> of Children
Your children need:

1. **<u>Love</u>** (Titus 2:4)
2. **<u>Security</u>**
3. **<u>Time</u> and <u>Attention</u>** (Prov. 29:15).
4. **<u>Patience</u>** (Eccles. 7:8; Rom. 12:12; Ja. 1:3-4)
5. **<u>Encouragement</u>** (Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29)
6. **<u>Example</u>** (I Timothy 4:12)
7. **<u>Prayer</u>**

** WHAT TO <u>EXPECT</u> FROM YOUR CHILDREN*

I. <u>Respect</u>

*"He who **<u>strikes</u> (physical disrespect)** 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; Deut.21:18-21; 27:16; Proverbs 30:11-<u>17</u>).

II. <u>Obedience</u>

See: Ephesians 6:1-2

III. <u>Honor</u>

See: Ephesians 6:3

"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)

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The Needs of Children

Since all children have the same nature, they all have the same basic needs. Due to personality differences, some children require more attention in certain areas than others.

The following is a list of needs that must be met by both parents. Your children need:

1. Love

a. *"Agape"* (αγαπε) love (I John 4:7)
   1) This love is unconditional (Ro. 5:8; I Pet. 4:8)
   2) This love is volitional (a decision or choice of the will)
   3) This love is sacrificial (Eph. 5:25, 29)

b. *"Philia"* (φιλια) love (Titus 2:4)
   This love is affectionate. Children need hugs and kisses; small children need to be held often.

2. Security

Children need the security of knowing that mom and dad are:

a. Committed to God through Jesus Christ
   (they need to know that He is your ultimate priority)
b. Committed to the Bible and its principles of truth
   (they need to know that you will never bend on a Biblical truth)
c. Committed to each other for life
   (they need to know that divorce or separation is never an option in Mommy's or Daddy's mind)
d. Committed to them
   (they need to know that nothing can sever the relationship and love you have for them)

3. Time and Attention

". . .A child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame" (Prov. 29:15).
Because King David did not give Absolom the forgiveness and attention he needed, his son became bitter and rebellious (II Sam. 14:24; 15-17)

4. Patience

(Eccles. 7:8; Rom. 12:12; Ja. 1:3-4)

a. Realize how patient God is with you (Ps. 86:15)
b. Realize that your labors will be rewarded in God's time (Gal. 6:9)
c. Realize that nagging, yelling, and complaining accomplish nothing good (Ja.

3:16-18).

5. <u>Encouragement</u>

(Prov. 25:11; Eph. 4:29)

Look for any area of positive character to praise.

1) For <u>initiative</u> (when a child responds to needs without being told to)
2) For <u>achievement</u> (when a child does his best, although the job may not be perfect)
3) For <u>obedience</u> (When a child does what he is told with a good attitude)
   "A child should be rewarded for obedience, but should not be obedient for a reward" (Ezzo, p. 82).
4) For <u>skill</u> (when a child displays giftedness, compliment him/her, but be careful to give the glory to God - I Cor. 4:7)

6. <u>Example</u>

(I Timothy 4:12)

a. *"In word"* - what you <u>say</u>
b. *"In conversation"* - how you <u>live</u>
c. *"In charity"* - how you <u>love</u>
d. *"In spirit"* - how you have <u>zeal and enthusiasm</u>
e. *"In faith"* - how you <u>believe</u>
f. *"In purity"* - how you are <u>holy</u> and <u>set apart</u>

Note: In setting the example, this does not mean that you never admit the wrong you commit. You must. Parents need to be real and transparent in front of their children. They need to see that you make mistakes, seek forgiveness when needed, admit fault.

WHAT TO <u>EXPECT</u> FROM YOUR CHILDREN

The old saying: "you get what you expect" is true of parenting. The reason why many parents get respect & obedience from their children is because they expect it. They know it is proper and right. In the early years of our Country, even unsaved parents required their children to respect authority. Today, however, many saved parents have accepted America's shifting trends and no longer require, much less expect, their children to respect authority.

Any society is only as strong as the families that make it up. As the family goes, so goes the country. To the degree a home is as God designed it to be, is the degree to which a family is blessed. When families are not governed by God's principles, the society languishes and travails in pain, sorrow, and frustration. If what this section of note teaches seems "out of date," offensive, contrary, and unbelievable-- it is because parents have (to one degree or another) let the world brainwash them with its anti-family, anti-Bible, anti-God philosophies.

The fifth of the ten commandments is this: *"Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee"* (Exodus 20:12; cp. Deut.5:16)

Parents should expect three responses from their children:

1. **<u>Respect</u> (for authority)**
2. **<u>Obedience</u>**

3. **Honor**

I. Respect (for authority)

All of life is structured around a "chain of responsibility" (cp. Mt. 8:10).

Three basic divinely established institutions to provide structure (order) and safety (protection) to society:

1) The Home (I Cor. 7:2ff; Eph. 5:22-6:4)
2) The Government (Rom. 13:1-f)
3) The Church (Heb. 13:7, 17, 24; I Peter 5:1-5)

These institutions involve submission and authority.

An "AUTHORITY" is someone with a position of oversight.

The position of authority is ultimately given by God.

This position of authority is one of service (an "authority" is a servant)

This position of authority is to provide leadership, training, and/or protection for the well being of the one(s) served.

The one who holds such a position of authority is responsible to God and will answer to God.

The one who is expected to submit to the authority will also be accountable to God for how he/she responded to the authority.

Respect for parents is so serious that God told Moses:

*"He who **strikes** **(physical disrespect)** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death";*
*and "He who **curses** **(verbal disrespect)** his father or his mother shall surely be put to death"* (Ex. 21:15, 17; cp. Lev. 20:9; Deut.21:18-21; 27:16; Proverbs 30:11-17).

Proverbs 20:20 - *"Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness"* (ie. his life will be snuffed out)
* Colossians 3:20 says:

"Children, obey your parents in all things:
for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."

Such obedience is to be:

1. **Submissive -**
   "Obey" = hupokouo" - lit. to listen with a submissive heart. Hence, to hear what your parents say and do it.
   (Attitude is just as important as action)

2. **Continual** (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.

3. **Respectful** - *"your parents"*
   Respect their God-given position over you. Even if you are bigger than them, smarter than them or stronger than them, you are to obey them because they are your parents.

4. **Total** - *"in all things"* (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 sin (to directly violate a Scriptural principle - cp. Acts 4:19-20, 5:29).

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

Rather, He said, *"for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."* The reason for obedience is simple. It pleases God. It is right! (Eph. 6:1)

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

Parents: Do you want your children to please 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.

3 blessings that come to those who submit to authority (outline by Bill Gothard):

1. **You grow in wisdom and character**
   (See: the example of Jesus as a 12-year old boy - Luke 2:49-52).
2. **You gain protection from destructive temptations**
   "The essence of submission is not 'getting under the domination of authority,' but rather 'getting under the protection of authority.' Authority is like an 'umbrella of protection'."
   (Gothard, Basic Seminar Textbook, p. 20)
3. **You receive clear direction for life decisions**
   How does God speak to us? Obviously through His Word the Bible. However, in the details of life, how does He direct us?
   *"One of the most basic aspects of faith is to realize how God gets His directions to us through those He has placed over us. . . Our faith multiplies as we see how God speaks to us through those He has placed over us." (Gothard, p. 20)

II. Obedience

See: Ephesians 6
CHRISTIAN CHILDREN MUST RESPECT THEIR PARENTS
- GOD'S WAY (v. 1-3)

To respect is to obey and honor and to obey and honor is to respect.

GOD REQUIRES RESPECTFUL ACTION (A child's duty is obedience) (v. 1)

"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

III. Honor

GOD REQUIRES A RESPECTFUL ATTITUDE (The child's disposition is honor) (v. 2-3)
"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 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)
   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._____"

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:

a. 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.