

Children Obey Your Parents

Sunday, July 26, 2020

Mike Miller

Straight Paths Bible Church

Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. **Colossians 3:20**

- I. This is the first command of God given to all of us after we enter this world.
 - A. This is different than “honor thy father and thy mother.”
 1. You can obey without honoring, but you cannot honor without obeying.
 - B. To learn to obey our parents is an extremely important part of our development and our entire life that we learn to obey our parents.
 1. If this important law is abandoned by a society, the entire society will soon collapse, because it is the foundation of all law and order.
 - C. If we fail this it certainly will not be well with us in the other matters of our life.
 - D. It is a major steppingstone to maturity and proper character.
 - E. It is our first obstacle to being totally selfish beings.
 - F. It is our first lesson in exercising faith. (believing and obeying the words we are told from the authority God has placed in our lives by his divine order.
 1. For this reason parents must strive to be trustworthy and guard it carefully with the words they say to their children.
 - G. It is our most important preparation for learning to obey God.
 1. No child that is disobedient to his parents will be obedient to God.
 2. No disobedient child is ever virtuous, prosperous, or happy.
- II. It is obviously a law of God, since it is observable in all of nature.
 - A. Even the animals obey their parents – their survival depends upon it.
 - B. All children come into this world unable to care for themselves and incompetent to direct their own lives.
 1. Therefore they must be under the control and direction of someone else until they are competent.
 - C. Their ability to reason isn’t developed and they do not know how to think about things properly.
 - D. They have no experience, so they have no judgment to make decisions about their direction for the long term or the short term.
 - E. God has arranged things in such an order and He has put someone in the child’s life to guide him that loves him with a unique love that is more powerful than any other human love – no one else will ever love you like your parents.
- III. What does it really mean to obey your parents?
 - A. Certainly, it means to comply with their commands – this is right.
 - B. But it means more than just outward responsive obedience.
 1. A truly obedient child will obey inwardly.
 2. In other words, he will know his parents’ wishes and what pleases them and do accordingly – without being commanded to do so.

And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; for I do always those things that please him. **John 8:29**

3. Again, the parent should be consistent in their own character and habits so the child is not confused about what pleases them.

4. A parent (or a spouse) should be able to be pleased and not always impossible to please.
- C. It is not necessary for a child to understand “why” before he obeys his parents.
 1. So it is not necessary, or advisable to explain the reasons why, or try to reason with him to convince him to obey.
 2. The fact is, that MOST of the time children will not understand why – until later.
 3. This is so foundational for developing a right understanding of God and his dealings in our lives.
 4. This is the same process by which we learn everything we learn in life.
 5. We hear the word and exercise faith in it by acting upon it without fully understanding “why.”
- D. True obedience is yielding your will to the will of your parents.
 1. That includes trusting them with your heart to make right decisions for you.
 2. It includes trusting the fact that they will do what is best for you without any selfish interests of their own.
 3. Again, this is so important for laying a foundation for the child to trust in God.
- E. True obedience is accomplished through love – on the part of the parents as well as the child.

He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.
John 14:21

He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me. **John 14:24**

- F. Obedience is also learned from suffering the consequences of disobedience.
 1. We have all experienced the pain of coming to realize that our parents were right and we were wrong.
 2. They tried to warn us but we wouldn't listen and now we are paying for it with suffering and pain.
- IV. Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.
- A. If each person would simply do what God has commanded them to do in whatever station of life they are in at the time, the world would certainly be a much better place to live.
 - B. Everyone would be blessed and everyone would find it so much easier to be what they are supposed to be.
 - C. But it isn't always that way and we have to obey God no matter what the others in our life may do.
 1. God will bless and reward us if we do right no matter what others may do or how they treat us.
 2. We do not keep God's commandments under our conditions.