

Children and Parents Walking, As Wise

Ephesians 6:1-4

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Children and Parents—Walking Circumspectly, As Wise

I. Bible teaching concerning how children should act toward their parents

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

Eph 6:2 Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Eph 6:3 That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

A. A sister passage in Colossians

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

B. Honor thy father and thy mother—One of the Ten Commandments

Exo 20:12 Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

Deu 5:16 Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.

C. God takes this commandment very seriously

Deu 21:18 If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and *that*, when they have chastened him, will not hearken unto them:

Deu 21:19 Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place;

Deu 21:20 And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son *is* stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; *he is* a glutton, and a drunkard.

Deu 21:21 And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

Pro 20:20 Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness.

Pro 30:17 The eye *that* mocketh at *his* father, and despiseth to obey *his* mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it.

D. The commandment to honor your parents extends into adulthood

Mat 15:3 But he answered and said unto them, Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?
 Mat 15:4 For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death.
 Mat 15:5 But ye say, Whosoever shall say to *his* father or *his* mother, *It is a gift*, by whatsoever thou mightest be profited by me;
 Mat 15:6 And honour not his father or his mother, *he shall be free*. Thus have ye made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition.
 Mat 15:7 *Ye* hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying,
 Mat 15:8 This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me.
 Mat 15:9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.

E. Sons who were still honoring a father's command—even perhaps 300 years later)

Jer 35:5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.
 Jer 35:6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, *neither* ye, nor your sons for ever:

II. Bible teaching concerning how parents should act toward their children

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

A. A sister passage in Colossians

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

B. Old Testament Law of Moses teachings about teaching your children

Deu 6:6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:
 Deu 6:7 And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up.
 Deu 6:8 And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes.
 Deu 6:9 And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates.
 Deu 6:20 *And* when thy son asketh thee in time to come, saying, What *mean* the testimonies, and the statutes, and the judgments, which the LORD our God hath commanded you?
 Deu 6:21 Then thou shalt say unto thy son, We were Pharaoh's bondmen in Egypt; and the LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand:
 Deu 6:22 And the LORD shewed signs and wonders, great and sore, upon Egypt, upon Pharaoh, and upon all his household, before our eyes:
 Deu 6:23 And he brought us out from thence, that he might bring us in, to give us the land which he sware unto our fathers.

C. Bible examples of good parenting

1. Joshua

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

2. David—(When he arose from his death bed to guide Solomon one last time)

1Ch 28:9 And thou, Solomon my son, know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind: for the LORD searcheth all hearts, and understandeth all the imaginations of the thoughts: if thou seek him, he will be found of thee; but if thou forsake him, he will cast thee off for ever.

1Ch 28:20 And David said to Solomon his son, Be strong and of good courage, and do *it*: fear not, nor be dismayed: for the LORD God, *even* my God, *will be* with thee; he will not fail thee, nor forsake thee...

3. Solomon—(Much of the Book of Proverbs is a guide to parenting our children.)

Pro 4:1 Hear, ye children, the instruction of a father, and attend to know understanding.
 Pro 4:2 For I give you good doctrine, forsake ye not my law.
 Pro 4:3 For I was my father's son, tender and only *beloved* in the sight of my mother.
 Pro 4:4 He taught me also, and said unto me, Let thine heart retain my words: keep my commandments, and live.
 Pro 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

4. Lois and Eunice—(Timothy's grandmother and mother)

2Ti 1:5 When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice...
 2Ti 3:15 And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures...

D. The hard balance of maintaining parental responsibility regarding adult children

Gen 2:24 Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.

1Sa 2:22 Now Eli was very old, and heard all that his sons did unto all Israel; and how they lay with the women that assembled *at* the door of the tabernacle...

1Sa 2:23 And he said unto them, Why do ye such things? for I hear of your evil dealings by all this people.

1Sa 2:24 Nay, my sons; for *it is* no good report that I hear...

1Sa 3:12 In that day I will perform against Eli all *things* which I have spoken concerning his house: when I begin, I will also make an end.

1Sa 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.

1Ki 1:5 Then Adonijah the son of Haggith exalted himself, saying, I will be king: and he prepared him chariots and horsemen, and fifty men to run before him.

1Ki 1:6 And his father had not displeased him at any time in saying, Why hast thou done so? ...

E. The delicate and difficult issue of corporal (bodily) punishment—The ‘rod’

1. The Bible allows the use of—(and even directs the use of)—corporal punishment

Pro 19:18 Chasten thy son while there is hope, and let not thy soul spare for his crying.

Pro 22:15 Foolishness *is* bound in the heart of a child; *but* the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.

Pro 23:13 Withhold not correction from the child: for *if* thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die.

Pro 23:14 Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.

Pro 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left *to himself* bringeth his mother to shame.

Pro 29:17 Correct thy son, and he shall give thee rest; yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul.

B. The attitude in which the Bible’s corporal punishment must be administered

Eph 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Col 3:21 Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged.

Heb 12:9 Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected *us*, and we gave *them* reverence...

Tit 2:15 ...exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.

1Ti 3:5 (For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

Gal 6:1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

Gal 6:2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.

Gal 6:3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself...

Gal 6:5 For every man shall bear his own burden.