

# God's Gift to Children

## The Theme of This Section of Ephesians

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." - Ephesians 5:21

1. The theme for this section of Paul's writing is submission and obedience. This gives deep respect (reverence) to our Lord.
2. The Greek word for obey, *hypakouō*, means to listen carefully and to submit to the one over you.

"The men were amazed and asked, 'What kind of man is this? Even the winds and the waves obey Him!'" - Matthew 8:27

### We have learned that everyone must be obedient in some way:

"Submit yourselves, then, to God..." - James 4:7

"Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities..." - Romans 13:1

"...to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work..." - 1 Cor. 16:16

*Note: Equality is not the purpose of this passage; function is!*

## God's Directive to Children

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>"Honour your father and mother" — which is the first commandment with a promise — <sup>3</sup>"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." - Ephesians 6:1-3

"Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord." - Colossians 3:20

## Who are the "Children" in this Passage?

- It is usually understood that this passage is talking about children who live in the homes of their parents.
- But every person should continue to honour parents.

## Children are to Obey

1. Because it is right. (*Function*)
2. Because it is commanded. (*God says, "because I said so!"*)
3. Because it is a commandment with a promise. (*God knew that His children would ask "Why?"*)

"Honour your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the LORD your God is giving you." - Deuteronomy 5:16

4. Because it is best for an individual and for society.

*What does this mean and is it still true today?*

5. Because it pleases the Lord.

## Guiding Principles for Children

- Obey your parents "in the Lord." *What does that mean?*
- Obey your parents in everything.

*The only time that you can properly refuse your parents is if they ask you to do something that would cause you to sin.*

## Obedience to Parents Doesn't Mean...

- That you can't respectfully disagree.
- That your parents are always right.
- That you will be happy obeying everything that your parents require of you. *But be careful of your attitude!*
- That you are somehow a "lesser" person.

## Obedience to Parents Does Mean...

- That you should obey immediately.
- That your attitude should be godly.

*"In your anger do not sin"*

- Ephesians 4:26

## Homework Assignment:

- Talk to your parents and ask, "How can I express my obedience to you in a better way?" and "When do I frustrate you the most?"
- Parents ask: "When we ask you to do something, how can we say it in a better way?" and "How can we show you more respect?"

## Now to Parents . . .

*"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."*

- Ephesians 6:4

- The word "Fathers" is *pater* which means "Fathers" or "parents".
- Don't frustrate your children but do teach them.

*How do parents exasperate their kids?*

- By teasing too much (or by constant criticism).
- By not allowing your child to be successful and/or by setting unreasonable goals.
- By being over-protective.
- By not setting standards or by changing them.
- By failing to show affection.

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2. Because it is \_\_\_\_\_. (God says, "because I said so!")

3. Because it is a commandment with a \_\_\_\_\_. (God knew that His children would ask "Why?")

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What does this mean and is it still true today?

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- Obey your parents in \_\_\_\_\_.

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**Childless man was happy to become a godfather (until he read the fine print)**

A man is being labeled 'selfish' for refusing to become a godfather to his best friend's newborn after he was handed a legally binding contract

Read in National

Post: <https://apple.news/AfH3 DUjHSs2AX1jv OPuow>