

Parent Child Relationships Ephesians 6:1-4

Introduction:

We continue our consideration of submitting to authority as part of one's Christian duty. In submitting to authority we are actually submitting to Christ. And in turn, those who are exercising authority must keep in mind that they are answerable to Christ for the manner in which they exercise that authority.

Tonight we consider the submission of children to their parents' authority and how Fathers are to be cautious in the manner in which they exercise that authority over their children.

Text for this evening:

Ephesians 6:1 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 (ESV) "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Ephesians 6:3 (ESV) "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

The term "children" is a reference to offspring and could be said of children of all ages. We are all somebody's child this evening.

Ephesians 6:1 (ESV) **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 (ESV) "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Children are to listen to their parents

Ephesians 6:1 (ESV) Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Ephesians 6:2 (ESV) "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Thus, it is more than children simply doing what their parents tell them to do.

They are to be instructed and grow as a result of being taught by their parents.

Proverbs 1:8 (ESV) Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching.

That relationship to one's parents changes however as circumstances and age changes.

Ephesians 5:31 (ESV) "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."

Children are to listen to their parents as part of the child's Christian duty.

Ephesians 6:1 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Even Jesus placed Himself under the authority of His parents.

We have an account of Jesus in the temple at 12 years of age.

Luke 2:41 (ESV) Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

Luke 2:42 (ESV) And **when he was twelve years old**, they went up according to custom.

Luke 2:43 (ESV) And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it,

Luke 2:44 (ESV) but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances,

Luke 2:45 (ESV) and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him.

Luke 2:46 (ESV) After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions.

Luke 2:47 (ESV) **And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers.**

Luke 2:48 (ESV) And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress."

Luke 2:49 (ESV) And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? **Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?**"

Luke 2:50 (ESV) And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them.

Next, our attention is drawn to Jesus' submission to His parents.

Luke 2:51 (ESV) And he went down with them and came to Nazareth **and was submissive to them**. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.

Luke 2:52 (ESV) And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

The word found in Luke 2:51 is different word than the word that is used in our text. In Luke 2:51 it means to place oneself under the authority of another.

In this instance it means that Jesus recognized the authority that His parents had over Him.

Don't miss the relationship to Mary pondering these things in heart with the benefits that it brought to Christ.

Luke 2:51 (ESV) And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. **And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart.**

Mary was accustomed to treasuring up the sayings and experiences associated with Jesus.

Luke 2:19 (ESV) But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.

A part of Jesus' increasing in wisdom resulted from His submissiveness to His parents and their instruction.

Luke 2:52 (ESV) **And Jesus increased in wisdom** and in stature and in favor with God and man.

Children of all ages are to "value" their parents.

Ephesians 6:2 (ESV) "**Honor** your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Grown children are to care for (honor) their elderly parents.

1 Timothy 5:3 (ESV) **Honor widows** who are truly widows.

1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV) **But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.**

Again, to honor one's parents by caring for them is a part of one's Christian duty.

1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV) **But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.**

Such care for one's parents is what God desires.

1 Timothy 5:4 (ESV) **But if a widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show godliness to their own household and to make some return to their parents, for this is pleasing in the sight of God.**

Jesus provided for His mother, Mary prior to His death by charging John to care for Mary as a son should care for his own mother.

John 19:25 (ESV) **but standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.**

John 19:26 (ESV) **When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!"**

John 19:27 (ESV) **Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.**

John 19:27 (ESV) **Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.**

To care for one's parents should not be viewed as a difficult obligation but rather as a wonderful privilege.

Mary was entrusted to John because Jesus loved John.

Mary's being entrusted to John was to be a blessing both to Mary and to John.

Personal Illustration:

Jesus pleased God the father by placing Himself under the authority of Jesus' parents.

Luke 2:52 (ESV) And **Jesus increased in** wisdom and in stature and **in favor with God** and man

Jesus also pleased His parents and others by placing Himself under the authority of His parents.

Luke 2:52 (ESV) And **Jesus increased** in wisdom and in stature and **in favor with God** and **man**

Ephesians 6:3 (ESV) “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

There are benefits to be had in honoring one’s parents

Ephesians 6:2 (ESV) “Honor your father and mother” **(this is the first commandment with a promise),**

What a blessing and head start it is in life to have godly parents.

Proverbs 1:8 (ESV) Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching,

Proverbs 1:9 (ESV) for they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

Ephesians 6:3 (ESV) “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

Fathers are not to abuse their authority over their children.

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not **provoke** your children **to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

In the Greek “provoke to anger” is one word.

Romans 10:19 (ESV) But I ask, did Israel not understand? First Moses says, “I will make you jealous of those who are not a nation; with a foolish nation I will **make you angry.**”

The word “provoke” in our text is different than the word translated into English as “provoke” in the book of Colossians.

Colossians 3:21 (ESV) Fathers, do not **provoke** your children, lest they become discouraged.

Colossians 3:21 (NASB95) Fathers, do not **exasperate** your children, so that they will not lose heart.

In Col fathers are not to “frustrate” their children. One does that by requiring or demanding too much so that the child gives up.

Colossians 3:21 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children, **lest they become discouraged**.

Colossians 3:21 (NASB95) Fathers, do not exasperate your children, **so that they will not lose heart**.

We must not place a burden on our children that is greater than what they can carry.

We don't want to break their spiritual backs as it were.

In our text, the idea is that fathers must be on guard against creating a spirit of anger or rebellion in a child by the abuse of authority.

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not **provoke** your children **to anger**, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

The authority that fathers exercise is to be consistent with the authority that Christ gives.

Ephesians 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up **in the discipline and instruction of the Lord**.

Conclusion: