

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

A. Here the apostle shifts the discussion from practical teaching to the married to “*children*.” The instruction is to children and it is very clear and concise. Children are to “*obey*” their parents. This is the children’s role in mutual submission. They are to “*submit*” or “line up under” the God ordained authority in their lives as verse 5:21 commands.

Ephesians 5:21 - 21 and **be subject to one another** in the fear of Christ.

B. Children, obey your parents - What does “*obey your parents*” imply? – There is an authority/submission principle at work. Parents are to implement directives and children are to obey them. Several points could be made here;

- The order and welfare of the family and society depend on it.
- Children are not qualified to direct themselves. They are in need of guidance and direction and are not naturally competent to make decisions about their personal welfare.
- How will they learn this obedience? – You **MUST** teach them.
- How can we teach them obedience? – You must command them and cause them to follow through. You must **ASSERT AND ENFORCE** your authority.

C. in the Lord, for this is right - This he says is “*in the Lord*” or consistent with the Lord and His teaching or for the Lord’s sake, and furthermore points out that “*this is right*”. This is the commandment of God, the 5th, “honor your father and mother.” There is a right and a wrong. In the case of children, “*right*” is obedience to their parents. Further, God is “*well pleased*” by this!

Exodus 20:12 - 12 "**Honor your father and your mother**, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you. NASB

Colossians 3:20 - 20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, **for this is well-pleasing to the Lord**. NASB

Are there exceptions? As far as their commandments agree with those of God, and no farther. No parent can have a right to require a child to steal, or lie, or cheat, or assist him in committing murder, or in doing any other wrong thing. No parent has a right to forbid a child to pray, to read the Bible, or to worship God.

Ephesians 6:2 - Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise) NASB

A. Honor your father and mother – Another directive to children, this time dealing with the heart. They are to honor their parents. This means that the inner attitude of the heart must be one of respect and honor. Outward acts of honor only follow a truly respectful heart. This has always been the standard of God.

Leviticus 19:2-4 - 2 "Speak to all the congregation of the sons of Israel and say to them, 'You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy. **3'Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father**, and you shall keep My sabbaths; I am the LORD your God. NASB

Exodus 21:17 - 17 And he who curses his father or his mother **shall surely be put to death**. NASB

Proverbs 30:17 - 17 The **eye that mocks a father, And scorns a mother**, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it. NASB

What relation do you suppose “*honor*” has to do with authority? Children must respect and submit(verse5:21) to the authority of their parents. Parents must assert and enforce their authority and bring the child to obedience. How can a child learn this behavior unless their parents teach them? In fact, if a child does not learn to submit to the authority

of his/her parents through discipline, they will not learn to honor and obey any authority including God Himself, which WILL eventually lead to their eternal death. Consider, even as a child does not naturally obey their parents, neither do they naturally honor them.

Proverbs 19:18 - 18 Discipline your son while there is hope, **And do not desire his death** . NASB

B. By what means do we cause and teach them to honor us?

- By means of gracious love and care for them. A parents' kind and patient love affords a child reverence and honor for the parent.

Romans 2:4-5 - 4 Or do you think lightly of the riches of His kindness and forbearance and patience, not knowing **that the kindness of God leads you to repentance?** NASB

Proverbs 31:26 - 6 She opens her mouth in wisdom, And **the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.** NASB

- By means of instruction, and training. Children must be trained to honor authority. They will not learn unless they are *continually* encouraged by teaching and correction.

Proverbs 22:6 - 6 **Train up a child in the way he should go,** Even when he is old he will not depart from it. NASB

2 Timothy 3:16 - 16 All Scripture is inspired by God and **profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness;** NASB

- By means of reproof and correction, by discipline. Dictionary: Discipline - "Control obtained by enforcing compliance or order." Not only does obedience need to be enforced, but the child needs to be taught to love correction.

Proverbs 15:31-32 - 31 He **whose ear listens to the life-giving reproof will dwell among the wise.** 32 He who neglects discipline despises himself, But he who listens to reproof acquires understanding. NASB

Proverbs 12:1 - Whoever **loves discipline loves knowledge, But he who hates reproof** is stupid. NASB

C. (which is the first commandment with a promise) – Here the apostle points out that God has promised prosperity to those who will hear this commandment. This commandment has special privileges enjoined to it by the providence of God!