

The Characters of The Christian Home

Col. 3; Eph. 5,6

Guided Growth with Pastor Keith @ CBC

Sunday, Aug. 28th

REFLECTION: God is the author and architect of the Family. We've been looking at His blueprint for the family from passages such as Colossians 3 and Ephesians 5. By comparing our homes and hearts with the blueprint of God's word, we can see areas that need some "Home Improvement." We've already looked at the Characteristics as well as the "Characters" of the Wife and Husband.

DIRECTION: There are still two "characters" that make up many homes that God addresses. These include the roles of the children and Parents. This morning we're going to focus on God's design for "Christian Children". He really gives One primary command to the children which involves two dimensions.

1. "CHILDREN **OBEY** YOUR PARENTS" Eph. 6:1

A. THIS COMMAND ADDRESSES THE **ACTION** OR BEHAVIOR.

Children: *tek'-non*; daughter, son.

Obey: *hoop-ak-oo'-o*; to hear under (as a subordinate), that is, to listen attentively; by implication to heed or conform to a command or authority.

1) The Home Establishes The Pattern For Authority.

a) If obedience to authority it is not learned, it sets a tragic and predictable cycle in motion.

B. DISOBEDIENCE TO BIBLICAL AUTHORITY IS **REBELLION**. 1 Sam. 15:22,23

"to obey is better than sacrifice, For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, he hath also rejected thee..."

1) By nature, a child is immature, selfish and self centered.

Pr. 22:15 "*Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child;* "

2) Children, left to themselves will be rebels, so parents must train the them.

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

2. "**HONOR** THY FATHER AND MOTHER." Eph. 6:2

A. THIS ADDRESSES THE **ATTITUDE**.

Honor: *tim-ah'-o*: to prize, fix a valuation upon; by implication to revere:—honor, value.

Pr. 17:6 "*the glory of children are their fathers.*"

We have lost this in our society. WHY?

1) To Honor means to give great "weight" to your parent's directions or counsel.

2) You can "obey" without "honoring". **Remember the Prodigal's older brother?**

B. OBEDIENCE MAY BE "OUTGROWN" BUT HONOR IS NOT.

Pr. 23:22-24 "*Hearken unto thy father that begat thee, and despise not thy mother when she is old.*"

Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding. The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him."

Hearken: *shaw-mah'* to hear intelligently (often with implication of attention, obedience)

1) The context here is your aged parents!!! "*when she is old*"

2) *This means you never outgrow the command to honor your parents!*

3. God Gives Us Four Reasons For These Commands

A. PARENTS ARE STEWARDS OF GOD. *"In the Lord."*

- 1) He chose your parents on purpose: Ps. 127:1 *"children are the heritage of the Lord."*
- 2) He has plans for you they must prepare you for. *"And did not he make one? And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed."* Mal. 2:15
- 3) They will give account. (Heb. 13:17) *"Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you."*

B. THEY ARE REASONABLE. *"for this is right."* dik'-ah-yos; equitable, just.

- 1) Your parents generally know more than you do about life.
 - a) Remember the human brain isn't fully developed until the mid/late 20s.
- 2) It is God's Pattern for Peace in the family. *"this is well pleasing unto the Lord"* (Col. 3:20).
 - a) Here is harmony in the home: the wife submits to the husband *"as unto Christ"*; the husband loves his wife *"as Christ also loved the church"*; and the children obey *"in the Lord."*
When everyone is fulfilling their God-given responsibilities → Gods' Peace.

C. THEY ARE COMMANDED. (the 5th Commandment.) (Ex. 20:12)

- 1) The Old Testament Law is a revelation of God's Nature and Holiness.
- 2) Each of the 10 commandments is repeated in the New Testament with the exception of keeping the Sabbath. (See Col. 2:16,17) *"Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days: ¹⁷Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ..."*

D. THEY ARE BENEFICIAL. *"that it may be well with thee..."* Eph. 6:3

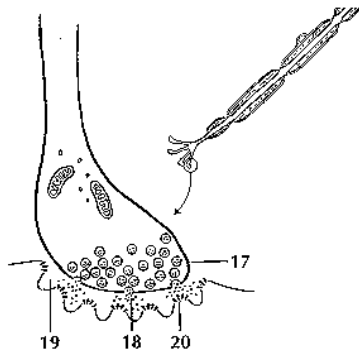
- 1) Many adult lives are "falling apart" because of violating this command!
- 2) God promised: *"It may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth."*
 - a) This means that the length of your life will be more fully lived and enjoyed.

This is a principle: Sin always robs us: Obedience always enriches us.

When children obey their parents in the Lord, they will escape a good deal of sin and danger and thus avoid the things that could threaten or shorten their lives. But life is not measured only by quantity of time. It is also measured by quality of experience. God enriches the life of the obedient child no matter how long he may live on the earth.

Larry Christenson in The Christian Family:

"A child's relationship to Jesus thrives in direct relation to the obedience which he gives to his parents. An obedient child is therefore a happy child. The child who knows exactly how far he can go is relieved of a heavy burden. A child may test his parents' authority, to see how far he can go. But deep down he wants to know that the parents' authority will stand firm, that he can depend upon it. A child may strain at parental authority, but he will rebel even more against a lack of parental authority. Every parent has become exasperated and burst out, 'You're just asking for a spanking!' If only the parent realized how literally true that is. The child's discontent is related to disobedience; he is too young and weak to command this obedience himself, but must look to his parents for it. Every child will know a deep contentment of spirit when he is helped to walk in the ways of obedience. For this is the focus and expression of his relationship with Jesus. The obedient child is living according to Divine Order."



Scientists have learned a great deal about neurons by studying the synapse—the place where a signal passes from the neuron to another cell. When the signal reaches the end of the axon it stimulates tiny **sacs** (17). These sacs release chemicals known as **neurotransmitters** (18) into the **synapse** (19). The neurotransmitters cross the synapse and attach to **receptors** (20) on the neighboring cell. These receptors can change the properties of the receiving cell. If the receiving cell is also a neuron, the signal can continue the transmission to the next cell