

Sunday, August 22, 2021—Colossians 3:20-21 Children Obey Your Parents

### Colossians 3:20

- **Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**
- **Children**—is the plural of child. The underlying Greek word is variously rendered as child/children (77x), son (21x), and daughter (1x) by the King James translators. Noah Webster's *American Dictionary of the English Language* offers the following definition for the word "[child](#)."
  - Galatians 4:1-2—children are the underage offspring of their parents.
- **Obey your parents in all things**—is once again a command in the imperative mood. Children are commanded by God to “obey” their parents. The word “obey” means to listen, to harken unto a command, to be obedient, submit to. Therefore, before going any further we need to take stock of our list imperative commands in this chapter.
  - Col. 3:1—“seek those things were are above”
  - Col. 3:2—“set your affection on things above”
  - Col. 3:5—“mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth”
  - Col. 3:8—“put off all these”
    - Anger
    - Wrath
    - Malice
    - Blasphemy
    - Filthy communication out of your mouth
  - Col. 3:9—“lie not one to another”
  - Col. 3:12—“put on therefore as the elect of God”
    - Bowels of Mercies (v. 12)
    - Kindness (v. 12)
    - Humbleness of Mind (v. 12)

- Meekness (v. 12)
  - Longsuffering (v. 12)
  - Forbearing one another (v. 13)
  - Forgiving one another (v. 13)
  - Charity (v. 14)
- Col. 3:15—“let the peace of God rule in your hearts”
  - Col. 3:15—“be ye thankful”
  - Col. 3:16—“let the word of Christ dwell in you richly”
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  - Col. 3:18—“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands”
  - Col. 3:19—“Husbands, love your wives”
  - Col. 3:20—“Children obey your parents in all things”
  - Col. 3:21—“Fathers provoke not your children to anger”
- Children are supposed to obey their parents in all things because it is “wellpleasing unto the Lord.” In other words, it pleases God when Children obey their parents.
  - Ephesians 6:1—notice the expression “in the lord.” Remember our series of submissions back in Eph. 5:21 these verses here in chapter six are continuing that discussion regarding mutual submission.
  - Ephesians 6:2—The word honor here is also translated “value” in other places, it also carries the meaning of revering.
    - Exodus 20:12
    - Deuteronomy 5:16
  - So, Paul restates that Old Testament’s commands concerning children for the Dispensation of Grace. During the dispensation of grace, children are supposed to obey and honor their parents.
    - Proverbs 6:20
  - Deuteronomy 21:18-21—notice how seriously under the law God took the issue of children obeying and honoring their father and mother.

- Ephesians 6:1-2—in my understanding there is a difference in these verses between my relationship with/to my boys and my relationship with my father.
- Galatians 4:2—often parents have a difficult time letting their children go as they grow up. There will come a time when they will not and should not obey your every word, however, they are still instructed to reserve a place of honor for their parents.
  - Father's it is your job to know your children and determine when they are mature.
- Often time parents focus on just having obedient children and fail to teach them doctrine, values, and character from the word of God. Grace should not only affect our marriages but our children also.

### Colossians 3:21

- **Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.**
- **Provoke**—to stir up, excite, stimulate. Fathers are instructed not to provoke their Children to anger.
- First, this implies that husbands/fathers are supposed to offer loving headship for the wife and for the Children also.
- Second, fathers will have a tendency to be too hard, harsh, and demanding with their Children. We ought not parent in a way that tears our children down and ruins their self-confidence and turns them off to the things of God. Rather we need to set an example of God's grace in how we deal with our children.
- **Discouraged**—means to be disheartened, dispirited, and broken in spirit.
- Parents we hold the spirits of our children in our hands. Harsh words and criticism have the capacity to break the spirits of our children. There is a line that needs to be walked here between teaching our children to obey and be respectful and not discouraging them by breaking their spirits.
- Ephesians 6:4—wrath in this verse means to provoke, exacerbate, anger.
- Instead of provoking them to wrath and anger, fathers are to raise their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- **Nurture**—the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body, whatever in adults also cultivates

the soul, esp. by correcting mistakes and curbing passions, instruction which aims at increasing virtue

- II Timothy 3:16—“instruction” is the same Greek word translated “nurture” in Ephesians 6:4, therefore, to bring them up in the nurture of the Lord is to instruct them in righteousness from the word of God.
- Hebrews 12:5, 7, 8, 11—the word “chastening” in this passage is the same Greek word translated “nurture” in Ephesians 6:4 and carries the idea that Children need boundaries for which there are consequences for not observing.
- Proverbs 19:18, 22:6, 22:15, 23:13-14, 29:15-17—there is a big difference between abuse and correction. Abuse just lashes out in anger, correction is meted out in a calm way explaining why action is being taken.

### **The Example of Timothy**

- II Timothy 3:13—the society and culture that we live in is not getting better it is getting worse.
- Notice in the next verse that the way you combat evil men and seducers is to continue in the things you have learned.
- The word continue means to stay in a given place, state, relation or expectancy. Timothy is instructed to continue or remain in the things he has learned.
- Notice verse 15 that Timothy had been taught some things from the time he was a child out of the holy scriptures and Paul tells Timothy that the way you combat the evil that pervades in the culture is to continue in the things he learned as a child.
- II Timothy 1:5—Timothy is an example of what happens when you bring up a child in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.
- As parents we need to do our part according to the Word of God understanding that once they are older, they will have to make a decision if they will continue of the things, you have taught them or go their own way. Knowing that even if they choose to go a different way to doctrine you taught them is still in them whether they like it or not.
- Second generation Grace Believers.