

Homes Rooted In Heaven

Children's Responsibility To Their Parents

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Introduction:

A. Last Sunday morning we looked at "Creating A Spiritual Legacy"

1. We noted that in order to create a spiritual legacy parents must be good examples of faithful Christians, make God's word commonplace in the home, and establish spiritual priorities.
2. Parents have the job of raising children in such a way that they'll be faithful to the Lord
3. Parents aren't the only ones with responsibilities – Children do as well

B. It does not take an honest person long to see that there is a major problem in this great nation! Children do not respond properly to their parents!

1. See it in grocery stores, sporting events, and social gatherings
2. As the family goes – so goes the nation! The same can be said of local congregations!!!
3. We halfway expect this in worldly families – The sad reality is it's in Christian families too!

C. God has expectations for those of you who are children (Eph. 6:1-4)

1. He gives two responsibilities → We are to honor and obey our parents
2. If we will do this as children we can look forward to a long healthy enjoyable life!
3. This is bigger than just a "nice life" – It's a matter of sin before the Lord!

I. The Foundation Of Our Responsibility – Our Parent's Responsibility:

A. Your parent's job is to bring you up in such a way that when you become old enough, you will become a Christian and serve the Lord!

1. A parent's responsibility toward their children is to bring them up in the nurture and the admonition of the Lord! (Eph. 6:4)
 - a. To bring someone up in the nurture of the Lord means...
 - b. To bring someone up in the admonition of the Lord means...
2. This is an awesome responsibility that hopefully your parents do not take lightly!
 - a. Your parents know that they are going to have to stand before the Lord on the Judgment Day and have to answer for how they raise you!
 - b. They also understand that what you turn out to be is greatly dependent on them!
3. So when Christian parents make rules and decisions – They have your becoming a Christian and serving the Lord in mind – Even in little choices!

B. When your parents are making decisions, they have your spiritual well being in mind!

1. I remember, at times, my parents made decisions about my life that I did not like!
 - a. Sometimes as children we do not like and do not understand why our parents won't allow us to do certain things or even discipline us when we do wrong
 - b. Children need to understand that they're doing what they believe is best for them!
2. Parents do know understand what their children are facing! (Prov. 4:1-4)
 - a. Solomon as the father speaks to his son saying, "I once stood where you stand"
 - b. Children need to understand that parents have been there, they've experienced what you face... believe it or not – THEY DO UNDERSTAND!
 - c. They have a unique perspective children do not have – They have a "rear view"
 - d. It is NOT necessary for children to repeat the mistakes their parents made!!!
3. We should always keep their teaching and rules in our minds! (Prov. 1:8ff)
 - a. As you face decisions... recall their teaching and ask, "What would they say?"
 - b. Their rules and instructions are there to KEEP us from trouble – not restrain fun!
4. We should understand that even physical discipline is done to HELP you! (Prov. 13:24)
 - a. Some parents don't physically discipline their children – God says (not me) that you hate your children → It's strong words but just as true as R+B=S!
 - b. When they discipline you they are trying to keep you going in the right direction!
 - c. You can normally tell if a child isn't disciplined as God says – His actions say it all!

5. Why do parents say & do what they do? Hopefully cause they want you to go to heaven!

II. The Lord Expects Children To Obey Their Parents:

A. As Paul wrote, children are to obey their parents in the Lord because it is right!

1. Through eyes of the O.T. we see how God views a child's disobedience (**Deut. 21:18-21**)
 - a. No, if you disobey your parents now you will not likely get stoned!
 - b. However, this tells us that God takes your disobedience extremely seriously!
2. Children are to obey their parents in all things! (**Col. 3:20**)
 - a. "All things" means whether we like what they are requiring or not!
 - b. "All things" means total and complete obedience → Cannot pick and choose
3. Why should children obey their parents? Because it is what's RIGHT!
 - a. It may be good to give their children explanations when they make a decision that the child does not like – especially if you can teach a spiritual lesson
 - b. However, children need to be satisfied with a "Because I said so!"
 - c. Obeying your parents is what's right! It's what God said to do!

B. What Does Obedience Look Like? This is Really Misunderstood!

1. Real obedience is IMMEDIATE!
 - a. Children – When your parents tell you to do something they should not have to ask twice or count to three → That's not real obedience!
 - b. Parents, reconsider this whole "counting" thing – Are they really obeying?
 - c. Parents need to teach and children need to learn "FIRST TIME" obedience
2. Real obedience is COMPLETE!
 - a. God tells us to repent and be baptized – If we only repent have we obeyed?
 - b. When children truly have a heart of obedience they follow through with all of it!
3. Real obedience is without ARGUING or making EXCUSES!
 - a. Some children only obey their parents only after a fight or an argument → What is even sadder is that some parents think they have to argue back!
 - b. God has set up the home in such a way the parents are to rule and guide the home and the children are to follow and obey!
 - c. Parents rules, decisions, and instructions are NOT up for debate!
4. Real obedience is without COMPLAINING!
 - a. **Illustration:** Parent says, "Clean your room" – Child grumbles the whole time!
 - b. A child may actually do what is requested... but its not out of a desire to do right!
5. These characteristics of one's obedience to parents is parallel to obedience to the Lord!
 - a. How children learn to obey their parents is often how they respond to the Lord!
 - b. Parents... this should really impress the importance of proper training to you!
 - c. Whether or not a child learns these things will affect the rest of their lives!

C. There may come a time when a child should not obey their parents:

1. We hope that it would not happen; however, if a parent was to ask a child to do something that was against God's will – what should the child do?
 - a. Peter and the other apostles made it clear to the Jewish leaders that when what man says contradicts what God says – we must obey God! (**Acts 5:27-29**)
 - b. Examples: Tries to get them to say something wrong or not worship – Obey God!
2. Closer to home... Some children are forced by their parents to choose between serving the Lord and the love and recognition of their parents! (**Matthew 10:37**)

III. The Lord Expects Children To Honor And Respect Their Parents:

A. Paul went on to say that children are to HONOR their fathers and mothers:

1. What does it involve to honor or respect our fathers and mothers?
 - a.
 - b.
2. The Lord also takes seriously those who "disrespect" older ones: (**2 Kings 2:23-24**)
3. When you are disrespectful to your parents it is just a sign of more problems to come in

your life in the future: **(Rom. 1:29-32)**

4. There are some things that are common among children that show disrespect:
 - a. As we already noted... arguing with one's parents... is that respect?
 - b. Calling your parents by their first names... is that respect? Note: Your parents deserve more respect than your peers
 - c. Refusing to listen... walking away while being talked to... is that respect?
 - d. Rolling your eyes at your parents... is that respect?
5. Children, you owe your parents honor and respect! They deserve it because...
 - a. ...They are trying to raise you to be a Christian
 - b. ...They brought you into this world, and as some say, they can take you out!
 - c. ...They are older than you and have more experience
 - d. ...They took care of you and loved you when you couldn't care for yourself!
 - e. ...They deserve it because the Lord says that they do!!!

B. Children, God wants to see you honor and respect your parents through what you say to and about them! (Prov. 30:11-14)

1. Sometimes when children get together (especially if one's parents have just said NO), it can turn into "parent bashing" time!
 - a. You may feel they are acting unfairly so you put them down in front of your friends
 - b. Your friends may start the ridiculing and you join in so you don't feel "left out"
2. Some children are so bold as to call their parents names or speak hatefully to their faces!
 - a. This is no worse than the previous – however, the heart of rebellion is bolder!
 - b. Angry and hateful words are never right – especially when directed at your parents
 - c. Some children talk to their parents as if they were just anyone their own age!
3. Under the Law of Moses children who did this were put to death! **(Ex. 21:17)**
4. Instead of talking bad toward or about your parents you should say things to and about them that shows your love and respect! **(Prov. 31:28)**
 - a. It's the mature that can say "thank you" to our parents for being strong enough to say "no," to hold to decisions we don't like, and even for physical discipline!
 - b. Words like "I love you" and praise for our parents should be common things!
 - c. Your parents have a hard job and they should be praised for doing good!

C. God's expectation of honoring our parents doesn't end when we move away from home!

1. Our parents teaching and guidance, if it is in the ways of the Lord, should continue to guide us long after we move out of our house!
 - a. **Illustration:** Child off at college... wasn't allowed to see a movie... called home
 - b. When a child is at home he often doesn't want his parent's advice and help; yet, when he moves away and matures... his parents seem to grow wiser!
2. We honor our parents when they become old by taking care of them! **(I Tim. 5:3-4, 8, 16)**
 - a. Old (Jewish?) saying: "One mother can raise ten children but it takes 10 children to care for one mother." → Even worse, often 10 kids can't seem to get it done!
 - b. God looks at one who does not take care of their parents in old age as being worse than one who does not believe!
 - c. Your parents gave you 18 long and HARD years... you will likely not have to take care of them near that long... you owe it to them!
 - d. Nursing homes are good and have their role... but let's not use them as a way out of caring for our parents... some do!

Conclusion: God is surely made happy when He sees children obeying, honoring, and being respectful toward their parents. How do you treat your mom and dad?