

In the Fear and Instruction of the Lord

Ephesians 6:1-4 - 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. 4 And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. NASB

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

- 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.
- How will they learn this? – You **MUST** teach them.
- How can we teach them obedience? – You must command them and cause them to follow through. You must assert your authority.
- What is meant by “in the Lord for this is right?” – For the Lord’s sake, 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.
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
- 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, to worship God,

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

- 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.
- By what means do we cause and teach them to honor us? –
 - By means of gracious love and care for them,
 - By means of instruction, reproof, correction and training
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 discipline. Dictionary – “Control obtained by enforcing compliance or order”

Ephesians 6:3 - that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth -

- What is meant by “*that it may be well with you?*” – That you may prosper in life and be blessed. It is *implied* that if there is disobedience, things will NOT be well with you and you will NOT live long.
Deuteronomy 30:19-20 - 19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that **I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse**. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants, 20 by loving the LORD your God, by obeying His voice, and by holding fast to Him; for this is your life and the length of your days NASB
- We must teach them that God is **providentially involved** in their lives either rewarding or disciplining for obedience. God sees to it that we are blessed for obedience and cursed for disobedience. Deuteronomy chapters 28-29

- God is the rewarder of those who obey Him –
Luke 11:28 - 8 But He said, "On the contrary, **blessed are those who hear the word of God, and observe it.**" NASB
- God is the avenger of sin –
Psalm 99:8 - 8 O LORD our God, Thou didst answer them; Thou wast a forgiving God to them, And yet **an avenger of their evil deeds.** NASB
- Proper parental training affords the child great blessing in life – **What are they?**
 - To fear God keeps from all the vices of sin
 - It protects and guides to save from wicked men and wicked ways
Hebrews 12:11 - 11 All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet **to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness.** NASB

What is this fruit of righteousness?

Ephesians 6:4 - And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord -

- In what ways may a father provoke his children to anger? –
 - By unreasonable commands;
 - By needless severity;
 - By the manifestation of anger.
 - So govern them, and so punish them that if punishment is necessary, that they shall not lose their confidence in you, but shall love you.
 - By disciplining out of **ANGER** - Do not discipline a child in the heat of the moment, but wait until your temperament has cooled
- What does it mean to “bring them up in the discipline of the Lord?”
 - To establish proper authority and use it wisely and with loving guidance
 - To so govern them as to always do what is in their **BEST** interest, not yours
 - To see to it that they follow through in obedience
Proverbs 22:15 - 15 **Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child;** The rod of discipline will remove it far from him. NASB
 - To make sure they obey God, it is God’s will(not yours) that they must **ultimately** obey
Proverbs 19:18 - 18 Discipline your son while there is hope, And **do not desire his death.** NASB
- What does it mean to “bring them up in the instruction of the Lord?”
 - To understand and apply the didactic(teaching) nature of parenting
 - To make sure they learn to discern good and evil
 - To convict, correct, and to train