

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 6:1-4**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (8-8-93).
- C. The further our society gets from the Bible pattern for the family, the greater the stress and difficulty the family faces.
 - 1. God designed the family to be one husband and one wife faithful to each other for life.
 - a. This stable/dependable setting is what God designed for rearing children.
 - b. The husband is primarily “the bread-winner” and the wife the homemaker.
 - c. Both are responsible for training and rearing the children.
 - 2. The desire for more material things has sent many wives into the job market.
 - a. This has created many problems such as “latch-key” kids, greater stress and fatigue.
 - b. The rate of abandonment by fathers and broken marriages has escalated.
 - c. Some husbands expect their wives to work as many hours as they do and still do all the cooking, laundry, and housework.
- D. The Bible gives instruction (Eph. 6:1-4) on the responsibilities of marriage and child rearing.

I. CHILDREN HAVE A FUNDAMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY TO THEIR PARENTS.

- A. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”
 - 1. This would be limited to the time children are at home and dependent on their parents. If the child has not left father/mother (Gen. 2:24), he should be in subjection to them.
 - 2. The expression, “in the Lord,” (Col. 3:20), means be obedient as the Lord requires.
 - a. This principle should be followed whether or not the parents are Xians.
 - b. It also means that sinful commands need not be followed by the children either.
 - 3. The reason for the obedience is, “this is right.”
 - a. “Right” or “righteousness” refers to complying w/the requirements of the law.
 - b. Spiritual “righteousness” is doing what God says (Psa. 119:172).
- B. “Honor your father and mother” (Eph. 6:2).
 - 1. “Honor” includes the idea of respect and good will.
 - a. They should speak of parents with respect and honor.
 - b. Those who do respect their parents seldom develop respect for God.
 - 2. Jesus shows that this word also means to provide for the needs of parents (Mt. 15:3-6).
 - a. Our word “honorarium” comes from this word meaning wages of a soldier.
 - b. The “profit” the parents may have received in 15:5 refers to support for their needs.
 - 3. Reasons for honoring parents were inherent in the command of the Law (Ex. 20:12). When Jesus applies the Law of Moses to His teachings, it is for us today.
 - 4. Therefore children are to obey, respect and support their parents.

II. PARENTS ARE TO BE RESPONSIBLE AND LOVING IN THE CARE OF THEIR CHILDREN.

- A. See Eph. 6:4. “Fathers” refers to parents in general, although the father, as the head of the family, has the primary responsibility for the training and well-being of the children.
 - 1. The KJV renders the word either “father” or “parent.”
 - 2. The mothers are more directly involved in nurturing and training when they are homemakers, but fathers are to be helping and supporting and taking the lead in training.
- B. The first admonition to parents is “do not provoke your children to wrath.”
 - 1. This does not mean that you give them everything they want, letting them do as they please.
 - 2. It means do not intentionally and deliberately aggravate a child to the point of making him display

- anger destructively.
3. The best way to teach patience and self-control is by demonstration.
- C. The second admonition is that parents are responsible for “bringing up” their children.
1. The first way is in the “instruction” or “discipline” of the Lord.
 - a. Correction should always include instruction on what is wrong and why.
 - b. The teaching should be “in the Lord” or according to the teaching of the Lord.
 - c. This includes moral and spiritual training; vocational skills and academic training.
 - d. They must be taught many kinds of skills.
 - 1) They need to know how to be successful in the business world.
 - 2) They need to know how to be a good husband or wife; and parent.
 2. The second part is to admonish and encourage them “in the Lord.”
 - a. Encouragement is one of the most important aspects of teaching and training.
 - b. They need to develop a healthy self-esteem and confidence.
 - c. Confidence in their knowledge and ability comes from encouragement.
 - d. The best way to encourage and teach is by a good example.
 3. Parents must show how to serve the Lord by putting Him first in their lives.
 - a. They should set an example of regular Bible study and Bible reading.
 - b. They should put the Lord’s worship and Bible study first in their lives.
 - c. Be more interested in whether they miss a Bible class than a class at school.
 - d. Do not put school and sports activities before church functions.
- D. One other passage gives some excellent insight into the work parents in raising their children is Paul's listing the qualifications of Elders. If we substitute “parent” instead of “bishop” we see the importance of good parenting (1Tim. 3:2-5; Ti. 1:6).

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. The child that obeys and honors his parents is likely to have a longer and happier life than one who is self-centered and does as he pleases (Eph. 6:3).
- B. Parents who put the Lord first and take the time to train their children in the instruction and encouragement of the Lord will also be happier here and hereafter.
- C. The Lord knows what is best for us and wants us to be happy.
- D. Let us put him first in our lives that we may be a blessing to others and glorify His name.
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.