

Respecting Parents/Loving Children

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:1-4)

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged. (Col 3:20-21)

Paul writes two different times here for children and parents to treat each other properly. It should be noted here that he addresses both. Also in the context he addresses both husbands *and* wives along with slaves and masters. How do we treat each other properly? ***Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus (Col 3:17).***

This verse shapes the context in Colossians and a similar verse shapes Ephesians (***Eph 5:21***). Why should children obey their parents? It glorifies God. How we view and follow our parent affects our view of God. It is often difficult for those who have a poor relationship with their parents to have a great relationship with God. It is difficult, but not impossible.

This is why it is imperative for parents not to exasperate or embitter their children. Respecting God and others starts with Godly parenting. Kids need to see the commands of their parents much like God's: not burdensome (***1 Jn 5:3***). If we don't want our children to be bitter towards God, we need to work so they are not bitter toward us.

Parents need to be Godly parents. They need to instruct their children to follow Jesus and to be like Him. Parents need to show their children that, unlike the world, the way of Jesus is rewarding. If parents want children who will obey the Lord, it starts with the parents.

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