



Our Relationships part 2— Parents and Children

Colossians 3:20-21

Not An Easy Thing...



- Being a parent or a child may not be an easy thing, especially for a person that has difficult parents or children.
- (Col. 3:18-21) Nevertheless, just like **marriage**, God has a clear plan for us to move forward in our relationships between parents and children.

Obey Our Parents



- God commands us to both **honour** and **obey** our parents. (Exo. 20:12, Eph. 6:1-3)
- More than just a commandment, it is actually **good** for us. (Prov. 6:20)
- (Matt. 15:4-6) It is not about just paying lip service either. Do you actually honour and obey your parents?
- Note: this **pleases** the Lord (v.20)

It May Not Be Easy However

- But what if you have a **difficult** parent? Do you still honour or obey him?
- Once again the principle of loving your **enemies** applies in this case. “Do good to those who persecute you.” (Luke 6:27-28, 33-35)
- I am amazed to see how many relationships are **restored** because of this. But even if nothing happens, you have done your duty as a child.



- Note: this does not mean not to keep a safe distance from “toxic” parents with **terrible tactics** toward their children. You can honour your manipulative parents from a distance.
- (Matt. 7:3-5) You may not think you are the **cause** of the bad relationship...but is there any area in which you can **grow** and change?
- The least we can do is to **empathize** with our “bad” parents and show compassion because of the Lord. (1 Peter 3:8-9)



Do Not Provoke Your Children

- Sadly I have seen many “discouraged” children.
- What does “provoke” mean? How does a father (or mother) **discourage** their children?
- Of course this does not mean we should not **correct** our children (Prov. 4:1-3, 3:12). We should and we must...but how?
- Moreover, how should we **instruct** our next generation?



Just Some Observations...



- A father may provoke his children with his **actions**. (e.g. smoking)
- We teach by setting an **example** to our children (1 Peter 5:3; 2 Tim. 3:9)
- A father may provoke his children with his **motives**. (e.g. to save face)
- Surprise!! Your kids can recognize a **hypocrite** when they see one...and your motive too.

How Do You Talk To Them?



- A father may provoke his children with his **speech/lecture**. (Eph. 6:4)
- (Psalm 103:12) Do you **empathize** with your children? They need to be **heard** too. Do you listen to them? (i.e. I hate math)
- Just in case you don't know: **Insult** is not ok.
- Note: You may "know better"...but do you **know** what is happening to your children?

Conclusion

- It is important for us to **honour** and obey our parents, even with a bad relationship.
- It does not mean to **blindly** follow them however—rather we show respect to them.
- Parents: Do you **provoke** your children with your action, speech, or motive? How do you communicate to your children? (listen?)
- How are you **instructing** them? (Deut. 6:7)

