

PARENTS AND CHILDREN

The Book of Ephesians

Introduction

- I. The **Obedience** of Children – Ephesians 6:1-3, Romans 1:29-31, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, Luke 2:51
 - A. Because It Is a **Principle** of Morality – Ephesians 6:1, Colossians 3:20
 - B. Because It Is a **Precept** of Scripture – Ephesians 6:2, Exodus 20:12
 - C. Because It Is a **Protection** for Children – Ephesians 6:3
 - D. Because It Is a **Promoter** of Long Life – Ephesians 6:3

- II. The **Oversight** of Parents – Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 11:23
 - A. The Principle of **Discouragement** – Ephesians 6:4, Colossians 3:21
 - B. The Principle of **Diligence** – Ephesians 6:4, Ephesians 5:29
 - C. The Principle of **Discipline** – Ephesians 6:4, Hebrews 12:6
 - D. The Principle of **Direction** – Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 3:14-15

Conclusion

SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS

Getting Started

1. When you were a child, were you inclined toward obeying your parents or away from obedience?

2. When you observe an obedient child, what are some common behaviors he/she exhibits? What about a disobedient child?

Going Deeper

1. Read Romans 1:29-31, 2 Timothy 3:1-5, and Luke 2:51. What picture does the Bible paint regarding obedience and the impact it has on society? **Obedience is a fundamental building block of the home. Whether there are Christians in that home or not, obedience is what makes a family work. In fact, the Word of God tells us that obedience in the home is at the center of society. Scripture links disobedience to parents with the worst kind of sin.**

2. Describe the connection between parents disciplining their children and how that child will, most likely, turn out as an adult. How have you seen discipline used as a helpful, developmental tool for children? **Struggling with obedience to parents is part of the unhooking process that we go through as we get older and ultimately learn to make our own decisions. But if we try to push that process ahead of schedule, we cause great harm to ourselves and to our families.**
3. Read Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21. How might parents provoke their children to wrath? In what way can parents irritate or discourage their kids? **For example, there are some fathers who are always on their kids' backs. No matter what their son or daughter does, it is wrong. Within the exercise of parental authority there is a need for understanding and love . . . for justice and fairness and self-control. Sometimes a kid steps out of line, but then the father steps even further out of line by overreacting. Bottom line, the Bible teaches that small provocations should not set off major explosions.**
4. Read Hebrews 12:6. How can a parent stay clear on the difference between disobedience and mistakes? When have you seen a child make an honest mistake and be disciplined for it?

5. Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15. In what way do parents create a home environment wherein learning the Scriptures is a normal way of life? Describe someone you know who does this well. **Training is correction. Admonition is instruction or teaching. We need to teach our kids. We are responsible to help them learn the difference between right and wrong.**

Applying the Message

1. As a parent, how are you doing? Is there a change that needs to be made in your home?

2. How might you make that change this week? What would be the first step you can take to foster the most God-honoring home possible?