

Ephesians 6:1-3 – Living as a child in modern times

TSK, GreekLexicon, JFB, Geneva, Trapp, Robertson, Handfuls, Poole, Rienecker, Family, Clarke, Barnes, Calvin, Henry, Gill, Ellicott, Expositor?
Brothers and Sisters in the Lord: Many years ago I asked a child in the building right beside us, “What is that telephone number you have there?” The child’s response was, “This is the number I must call if my mom spansks me, so someone will come and get me.” But it is worse. Children are being trained in perversions in school. And they are even brainwashed into thinking God did not make the world.

If teachers teach children we are in this world by chance and **God did not make the world, then there is no biblical morality**. If there is no biblical morality, **there is only societal morality – a morality which changes all the time**. If there is only a societal morality and they can move the goalposts if they don’t like something, **then there is no need for a Savior. They can declare themselves to be good**. This is why most children think they are good. That is how they then live!

Well how does the Bible say a child ought to live in modern times? Let God speak.

Our headings are:

Present Reminder: Obey your parent

Past Ground: This was the law

Future Blessing: It will be well with you

Our goals are: **That children will honor their parents and help them fulfill their role of multiplying, filling the earth, and having dominion in Jesus’ name!**

Present Reminder: Obey Your Parents

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for **this is right**.

1. Christian children must obey their parents.

While all children must obey their parents, the focus here is on the obedience of Christian children. It doesn’t matter if the parents are Christians or not, Christian children are bound to obey.

2. Christian children must obey their parents as long as parents stay within the bound of what God says.

That is what the phrase “in the Lord” means.

3. Christian children must obey their parent with proper actions, not only outwardly, but inwardly as well.

So Christian children’s obedience to their parents must start in the heart. You probably heard the story of the child being told to sit down at the dinner table but refused. Only when he was threatened, he sat down. When he was questioned by his father why he finally obeyed, he responded, “I’m sitting down on the outside, but standing up on the inside.” The point is external obedience is evidence of hypocrisy. True obedience starts in the heart.

If a child can't obey his parents who love him the most in this world, he will never obey those outside who love him less – his teacher, his elders, his boss, and the police.

4. Christian children must obey their parents because this is the right thing to do.

Why is this right? Parents protect, provide for, and guide their children and so they ought to obey. Parents do this even when children are sick or they are sick. They care for children in the snow. They wipe their snotty nose. They cook and feed their children! Most of all, they teach children about Christ and bring them to worship – the best thing they could do for them.

All **ships leaving a local port must get a local guide** to take them **to open waters**. Just so children need guidance.

5. Christian children are commanded to honor their parents – which is much more than obeying.

Obedience was only part of the expression of “honoring parents.” Honor also refers to having the right attitude towards parents. Christian children are further expected to be helpful, pray for, and show gratitude to their parents.

Consider an example of honoring parents:

King Solomon rose from his throne when his mother came in to see him. What an example!

The closest redeemer refused to honor Naomi and marry Ruth, but Boaz showed honor to Naomi– marrying a Moabite. Ruth and Boaz's son, Obed, **then caused honor to come on his grandmother!**

Ruth 4:15 "And may he be to you a restorer of life and a **nourisher of your old** age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."

Consider some warnings to honor your parents.

1Timothy 5:4 But **if any widow has children or grandchildren, let them first learn to show piety at home and to repay their parents;** for this is good and acceptable before God.

You are to honor your parents even when they are old and gray.

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to the father who begot you, and do not despise your mother when she is old.

6. Lessons:

a. A child who doesn't honor his parents, even his worship is unacceptable.

Mark 7:11 "But you say, 'If a man says to his father or mother, "Whatever profit you might have received from me is Corban" — '(that is, a gift to God), 12 "then you no longer let him do anything for his father or his mother, 13 "making the word of God of no effect through your tradition which you have handed down. And many such things you do."

b. A child who doesn't obey his parents can expect God's severe judgment.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

Look at the graphic portrayal of judgment.

c. You don't have a choice about obeying your parents. An independent spirit of wanting to do your own thing is rebellion.

d. Obey and honor your parents even if they don't morally deserve it. After all, **you obey because you love Jesus** for what he has done for you. You should be thankful for what your parents have done for you. But they don't always do well...and some parents are bad! But Jesus was always good to you. Therefore, never say to a parent, "I don't care about you because you didn't care about me."

e. Obeying your parents does not require that you get brand named clothes, your own room, get all the toys you want for Christmas, to go out late, to talk forever on the phone, or a right to do your own thing and live the way you want. Parents are to **determine what dangers are and how much protection you need.** Parents are to determine what necessities are!

f. Children, if your parents provide and protect you, but don't discipline or guide you, they don't love you like they should. Pray that they will love you and not be careless about your soul.

Past Ground: This was the law

2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the **first commandment with promise:**

1. Children obeying and honoring their parents was grounded in the moral law and so it cannot change with the times.

The 5th command was for old times and it is for modern times. Teach your children when they say that you are "old-fashioned." This law is for the "new-fashion." The 5th command is "in vogue."

2. In fact, this law was established at creation and codified on Mt. Sinai when Moses was given the law.

This was not part of the ceremonial law that was completed when Jesus died.

3. Children who were constantly rebellious against their parents were executed for their sin.

Deuteronomy 21:18 "If a man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey the voice of his father or the voice of his mother, and who, when they have chastened him, will not heed them, 20 "And they shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious; he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton and a drunkard.' 21 "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death with stones; so you shall put away the evil from among you, and all Israel shall hear and fear.

Matthew 15:4 "For God commanded, saying, 'Honor your father and your mother'; and, 'He who curses father or mother, let him be put to death.'

Look at the ultimate judgment.

4. Lessons:

a. This verse proves the Old Testament Moral Laws have not been abolished! So keep them – all 10 of them!

b. Further, children are to obey the Lord because children understand they were made by God and they were remade in Jesus. Jesus kept the law for them and Jesus took the punishment for them breaking the law, so because they belong to Jesus, they must obey him, and so obey their parents.

c. Parents are to see their children obey them! If parents don't, it is **showing the children that God's law is not important.**

d. Notice that there are no exceptions for boys to be a little worse than girls! All are to obey. That is the law of God.

Future Blessing: It will be well with you

3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."

1. God will bless children in modern times who honor their parents as he did long ago.

Every child here likes to get a reward. Every good child will get a reward...or many rewards...as long as they do their good works through believing in Jesus.

2. What are the rewards that children would have?

Children would live long in the land God gave them. Some people make the error of thinking his was referring to long personal life, as if you would live to be 100 if you obey your parents. But disobedient children may live a long time. And some obedient children might die young.

Now there is a sense in which you will generally live longer if you obey your parents. If you don't play with the electrical outlet you will probably live longer. If you don't drink

and drive you will probably live longer. If you eat your broccoli, you will probably live longer. There are some examples of promises of long life for obedience in the Bible.

Proverbs 10:27 The **fear of the LORD prolongs days**, But the **years of the wicked will be shortened**.

But the real meaning here is that the church would be more established and strengthened throughout the world. In Israel's case, they were promised that they would occupy Canaan a long time if the children obeyed their parents. (“Earth” is best translated “land.”) In your case, Christ will continue to conquer the nations!

3. Lessons:

a. A child's obedience to his parents brings honor to God, brings strength to the church, brings joy to the parents, and great rewards from heaven and in heaven.

There is proof of those earthly rewards. Studies show children who obey their parents are generally healthier than children who do not.

b. You must apply this promise of reward in a general way to all parents. You will be rewarded if you obey all your other parents as your teachers, your boss, your elders, and your civil magistrates.

c. While you will get a reward for obeying your parents, understand your obedience is not perfect. The only way you will get a reward for obeying your parents is because God receives your obedience through the work of Jesus on the cross. It is like your good works had to **go through the blood of Christ to be purified.**

d. The success of the kingdom of Jesus is dependent on your obedience to your parents. (It is much more than causing you to live to a good old age!) If you disobey your parents you can delay the spread of the kingdom because parents would have to deal with you instead of dealing with kingdom work.

Conclusion:

Children, young or older, the message is simple: Obey your parents. That is God's command from the beginning of the world, and that is his command today. It doesn't change. It can't change. When you obey God, there is great blessing...now and later.

But brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. God wants you to know you should obey and honor your parents willingly and out of love – love for what the Lord Jesus did for you. When you obey your parents, there will be peace in the home, then there will be prosperity in the church, then there will be proclamation of the Gospel throughout the world, and then God will be praised!

2. If you don't want to submit to your parents as you should it is because you don't love God as you should.

3. So let God refresh you with his love for you, so you can love him back... And you love him back by obeying your parents.

Finally, you can't truly obey and honor your parents if your heart isn't right with God. For your heart to be right with God, you have to ask him to remove that stubborn heart and count Christ's punishment on the cross as the punishment for your sins. If you ask him, God will do it.