

“How To Relate To Our Parents”

Ephesians 6:1-3

Introduction: We are going to temporarily skip ahead into the family section of Ephesians on Mother’s Day and Father’s Day. The first three chapters of Ephesians are doctrinal, and the last three chapters are focused on applying the truths taught in the first three chapters. 4:1-5:21 focus on walking worthy of the Lord, which means that our lifestyle is to match up with our profession. 5:22-6:9 deals with family relationships, and then the letter closes by dealing with spiritual warfare. The family section deals with the husband-wife relationship, child-parent relationship, and master-bondservant relationship (This was prevalent in the world at this time so Paul is instructing them how to conduct themselves in this circumstance. The first Christians had no social or legal status to directly abolish slavery, but the application of biblical principles eventually brought about its abolition in many places [see the book of Philemon].) Today, we are going to look at how children are to relate to their parents, and on Father’s Day, how parents are to relate to their children. **So, how does God want children to relate to their parents?**

1. Children are to obey their parents (v. 1). Obey literally means to “listen under.” Children, while they are in their parents’ home, are to listen to them and do what they say because they are under their authority. This is how God has ordered the universe.

A. Limits to this obedience:

-While we are in our parents’ home (Ephesians 5:31)

-Something in direct disobedience to God as revealed in

His Word

B. Reasons for this obedience:

-This honors the Lord. Colossians 3:20 calls it “well pleasing to Him.” We obey the Lord by obeying parents. It is following the example of Jesus also (Luke 2:51-52).

-This is the right thing to do. It is built into the natural law, but it is also a part of the Law of God so it is a matter of righteousness. God’s Law has a function of revealing the holiness of God and the sinfulness of humanity (mirror), has a restraining effect on evil (guardrails), and guides Christians in how to live lives that please the Lord (GPS). In this case, obedience to parents is an aspect of righteous living for believers, protects society from the chaos that comes when there is not submission to authority, and it shows our sinfulness and need for a Savior because all of us have failed to perfectly obey and honor our parents, which makes us guilty before a holy God.

2. Children are to honor their parents (v. 2-3). This is lifelong and not limited to a particular period of time. Obedience is action, but this is the right attitude toward parents. Kenneth Wuest writes, “Honor is *timao*, ‘to estimate, fix the value.’ To honor someone therefore, is to evaluate that person accurately and honestly, and treat him with the deference, respect, reverence, kindness, courtesy, and obedience which his station in life or his character demands.”

A. How to honor our parents: Warren Wiersbe writes, “It [honor] means to show them respect and love, to care for them as long as they need us, and to seek to bring honor to them by the way we live.”

B. Results of honoring our parents: We are commanded to obey and honor our parents, but there is also a promise associated with honoring our parents.

-Quality of life: Proverbs makes it clear that the wise thing to do is listen to our parents’ instructions and doing the wise thing brings positive consequences.

-Quantity of life: