

Christ in the Home
“Children and Parents”
Colossians 3:20-21

Main Point: Children are to obey parents. Parents are not to exasperate their children.

Introduction

- If you have children, how did you learn to parent? Who or what serves as your model or guideline for parenting?

- One a scale of 1 (They’re only kids, let them do what they want) to 10 (I run a tight ship and the kids better fall in step), where would you place your parenting style? Explain.

Understanding

1. God’s Word to Children. Read Colossians 3:20.

- a. What does it mean to obey parents continuously?

- b. What are the two parts of obedience? Why is each part essential?

- c. Read Luke 15:25-31. How does the older brother in the story of the prodigal son illustrate the importance of obedience being an attitude?

- d. In Ephesians 6:1-3 Paul says that honoring thy father and mother is the first commandment with a promise. What are the two parts of the promise?

- e. What can parents do in their marriage if they want what is best for their children?

- f. Think back to your own childhood, what experiences did you have because you didn't obey your parents? What did you learn from obeying your parents?

- g. What are the most important ways that Christian parenting is different from secular parenting?

- h. What does Colossians 3:20 tell us is the result of obedience?

2. God's Word to Parents. Read Colossians 3:21.

- a. What particular warning is given to parents in this text? How can we discipline in the home without being authoritarian?

- b. What specific role does a dad play in raising the children?

- c. Why are some fathers negligent in their God given duty in raising their children?

- d. What should you do when you realize you made a mistake in your parenting or grandparenting? Explain.

- e. What could be the results of children becoming discouraged?

- f. What is the remedy for your children's exasperation?

- g. What do each of these Proverbs say about correcting your children?
 - i. Proverbs 29:15, 17

 - ii. Proverbs 13:24

 - iii. Proverbs 23:13-14

- h. How can parents admonish their children in the Lord?

- i. As you prayerfully think about your parenting or grandparenting, carefully go through each of the eight areas that are mentioned below and consider any changes that God might have you make. (Example: Am I overly strict with my children?)
 - i. Over Strictness
 - ii. Overly Protective
 - iii. Fault finding, criticism, unrealistic goals
 - iv. Showing favoritism
 - v. Neglect
 - vi. Not showing affection
 - vii. Divorce

Application

- What things distract your family from focusing on the goal of pleasing the Lord? What could you do this week to limit these distractions?