

PARENTS AND CHILDREN IN CHRIST

Colossians 3:20-21 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Families—the relationship between husbands and wives, children and parents, brothers and sisters—is of undeniable and in expressible importance.

1. CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS

Children are addressed in Paul's letter as responsible members of the family and the church

a. Command – obey in everything

- Obedience suggest following orders - Obedience is the appropriate behaviour - Present imperative which means this is a child's lifestyle - Obedience is in everything – Not contrary to God - Obedience is based on the theological truths of the first ¾ of Colossians

b. Why? – this pleases the Lord

- This is the context – the Lord; those "in Him should desire to please Him - "Pleases" means eminently satisfying and extra-ordinarily pleasing - Obeying your parents is to obey God - Children, do not try and do this in your own strength; look to Jesus
 - **Romans 5:19 (ESV)** For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.
- ***Christ provides the motivation and the power to obey your parents***

2. FATHERS, DO NOT PROVOKE

Paul likely means both parents, with an emphasis on the Father

a. Command – do not provoke

- Moo: "valid to apply this to both parents" - Do not encourage and foster a rebellious attitude - Interesting that Paul does not call the Father to exercise authority – certainly the Father was to be an authority but this is not Paul's emphasis or concern

b. Why? – they may become discouraged

- Do not parent in a manner that causes children to lose heart – encouraging rebellion by your parenting will lead to children rebelling or losing heart - Steward their hearts like /god has stewarded yours...with the Gospel - Gospel-centered parenting will not encourage rebellion but rather compliance; Gospel-centered parenting will encourage and not discourage
- ***Consider the fruit of your leadership of your children***

3. MOTHERS, DISCERN THE GOSPEL

a. **Command – discern the gospel**

- Discern means to catch sight of, recognize, and understand - This is a call to mothers to see the gospel in all its glory, to identify the gospel in their mothering, and to comprehend the gospel to their utmost

b. **Why? –**

- i. Mother's deliver the gospel**
 - ii. Mother's demonstrate the gospel**
 - iii. Mother's disciple the gospel**
- God is sovereign in his election of all those who come to him and he alone saves us. But God uses means to accomplish those ends and the means he often uses is mothers.
 - We ought to honour mothers because of this and we honour them today!
 - Mothers, consider how God has used woman in this role throughout the history of our faith and in the lives of our congregation and take seriously the call to discern the Gospel.
 - Mothers, if you have never "seen" the Gospel, we call you to consider the saving work of Christ on your behalf.
 - Mothers, if you are believers we implore you to recognize how the Gospel influences and instructs you in your mothering.
 - Mothers, we encourage you to understand the Gospel; to delve deep in the beautiful doctrines of Christ's work; to regularly reacquaint yourselves with the precious truths of the atonement; to pursue this great salvation until your last breath.