

CHILDREN AND PARENTS IN THE LORD
EPH. 6:1-4

Introduction:

- A. We must all be aware of God's place in the family.
 - 1. God created man and woman.
 - 2. God made them male and female.
 - 3. They were commissioned to multiply and to be fruitful upon the earth.

- B. The family is the foundation, the bed-rock, of all civilization.
 - 1. The schools cannot replace the family.
 - 2. The churches cannot replace the family.
 - 3. Government cannot replace the family.

- C. The pattern for family health and success is found in the Scriptures.
 - 1. In the Old Testament.
 - 2. In the New Testament.

- D. Paul includes these social pairs in his writing to the Ephesians.
 - 1. Children and parents.
 - 2. Husbands and wives.
 - 3. Servants and masters.

I. CHILDREN ARE TO OBEY THEIR PARENTS. V1

- A. "children, obey your parents."
 - 1. children = teknon - that which is born.
 - 2. obey - hupakouo = to hear with the idea of stillness or attention in order to answer, to obey.

- B. "in the Lord."
 - 1. This puts their obedience in the realm of religious duty and obligation.

2. Disobedience to parents is a spiritual problem.

C. "for this is right."

1. right - dikaios - fulfilling all claims which are right and becoming, just as it should be, right according to God's standard.

2. No other reason is given or needed!

II. CHILDREN ARE TO HONOR THEIR PARENTS. V2,3

A. "honour thy father and mother."

1. honour = tima - to count as valuable, to value, to honor, to revere.

2. A command, "You must honor."

B. "which is the first commandment with promise."

1. first = protos - foremost, prime, of place and dignity.

2. commandment - entole - that which has been enjoined, charge, precept, moral injunction.

3. promise - epaggelia - a declaration made on the account of something. A promise, an offer.

4. Exodus 20:12 "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

5. The Jews would inhabit the Promised Land so long as they served God. If the family unit broke down, they would soon worship false gods and would be forced to leave their land.

C. "that it may be well with thee."

1. Well = eu - happily, well off, properly.

2. So that thou mayest prosper.

D. "and thou mayest live long on the earth."

1. live long = makrochronios - long-timed.

2. And thou shalt live long to enjoy the land.

- E. God blesses when we do His will and chastizes when we disobey.
 - 1. Disobedient children take undue risks.
 - 2. Obedient children are likely to live longer.

III. PAUL'S COMMAND TO THE FATHERS. V4

- A. "and, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath."
 - 1. provoke to wrath = parorgizomai - to anger, to bring along to a deep-seated anger, chafing, the working into passion.
 - 2. Do not goad your children to resentment.

- B. "but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."
 - 1. nurture - paideia - the training of a child, including education and discipline; and consisting of teaching, admonition, rewards and punishment.
 - 2. admonition = nouthesia - a putting into the mind, instruction, It refers to training by word, primarily encouragement, when this is sufficient, but also of remonstrance, of reproof, of blame, where these are required.
 - 3. of the lord = religious duty.

IV. SOME IMPORTANT QUESTIONS.

- A. Are young people responsible to God?
 - 1. There are no distinctions made in the Bible.
 - 2. Old enough to be a member, old enough to do right.

- B. What can young people do in the church?
 - 1. They can do what others do.
 - 2. They are not excluded by youth.
 - 3. What can an elderly person do?

- C. What is the church obligated to do for its young people?
 - 1. To teach them the truth.
 - 2. To include them in its responsibilities.
 - 3. To expect the highest life style.

- D. Are the young people of this generation facing more temptations than any other age?
 - 1. What about Paul's age?
 - 2. What about the Dark ages?
 - 3. What about the Pioneer age?

- E. What are the very worst things we can do for our children?
 - 1. To give them what we never had.
 - 2. To make life easy for them.
 - 3. To tell them they are different.
 - 4. To establish their goals for them.
 - 5. Expect less than the Bible teaches.
 - 6. Defend their faults and their wrongs.

