

A Home Pleasing to the Lord

Colossians 3:20-21

Sermon Outline

1. God's Word for Children (20)

- Obey parents in everything
- It pleases the Lord

2. God's Word for Parents (21)

- Don't exasperate and discourage
- But do lovingly lead

3. What's at Stake

- Obedience
 - Going well and living long
 - Pleasing the Lord
 - Another covenant picture
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Introduction

The previous study in Colossians spoke frankly into our marriages and this week our family lives are still in focus.

Community groups are an ideal place for self evaluation and mutual accountability in how we live out the Gospel with our families. Apart from relationships like you are (hopefully) forming, it is too easy to put on the have-it-all-together-happy-Christian mask once a week and show up at worship services.

Discussion 1: God's Word for Children & the Covenant Picture

Discuss the following questions with emphasis on the Covenant picture. Recall and apply Pastor Ron's description of the 5th commandment's inclusion in the first set of commandments ("tablet 1--vertical relationship with God") as opposed to where it might seem to belong ("tablet 2-horizontal relationships with each other").

- *Why is disrespect/disobedience to parents punished so severely in the Old Testament?*

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 "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, though they discipline him, will not listen to them, ¹⁹ then his father and his mother shall take hold of him and bring him out to the elders of his city... ²¹ Then all the men of the city shall stone him to death with stones. So you shall purge the evil from your midst, and all Israel shall hear, and fear.

- *Why is it characterized so intensely evil in the NT?*

Romans 1:28-30 God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things which are not proper: ...greed, evil; full of envy, murder, strife, deceit, malice; they are gossips, slanderers, haters of God, insolent, arrogant, boastful, inventors of evil, **disobedient to parents...**

- *Can you see why the authors of the Heidelberg Catechism worded question 104 this way?*

Q. *What is God's will for you in the **fifth commandment**?*

A. *That I honor, love, and be loyal to my father and mother and all those in authority over me; that I obey and submit to them, as is proper, when they correct and punish me; and also that I be patient with their failings—for through them God chooses to rule us.*

[“...for through them, God **chooses** to rule us” is helpful here. Doesn’t God also choose to use flawed vessels to proclaim the Gospel and build the Kingdom?... When we start asking or challenging God’s right/ authority to choose to do things a certain way, we are again at risk of foolishly judging God by human standards.]

Discussion 2: God’s Word for Parents & the Covenant Picture

- *Does God (our Good Father) discipline us?* [Hebrews 12]

- *What’s the difference between that and exasperating /discouraging us?*

[Discuss differences in motivations, means, results, ... contrast God’s perfection in loving discipline with our sinful acts that exasperate or discourage our children.]

- *Discuss the dangers of idolizing our children.*

[Putting kids first, pampering them, constantly boosting their self esteem apart from self-evaluation and calls to repentance... *Does this cultivate pride or humility?*]

Discussion 3: One Another ...

- *Commend and encourage excellent examples you see in your group.*

- *Do you welcome others’ input with respect to raising your children (or dealing with your parents)? How will you respond if you are gently corrected?--As the wise?*

[Use wisdom in how you do this if you have a problem in your CG. Remember to take people aside one on one for such correction before ever in front of a group.]

- *Remind one another of the source of our hope* [Gospel Truth / Holy Spirit Power]

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- *Why is disrespect/disobedience to parents punished so severely in the Old Testament? (Deut 21:18-21)*
- *Why is it characterized so intensely evil in the NT? (Rom 1:28-30)*
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