

Lovin' Little Humans

"(v.21) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ."

Ephesians 5:21

New International Version

(v.1) Children, do what your parents tell you. This is only right.

(v.2) 'Honor your father and mother' is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, (v.3) 'so you will live well and have a long life.'

(v.4) Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them.

Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.

Ephesians 6:1-4

- ❖ Submission is love in action.
- ❖ Submission is devotion and obedience to Christ who models submission for all of us.
- ❖ Submission to your spouse out of reverence for Christ is the unshakable foundation to a lasting marriage.
- ❖ Submission to our responsibility as parents is born out of our reverence for Christ.

OUR CHANGING WORLD:

1-Technology

2-Poverty

3-Environment

4-Racism

5-Social injustice

6-War

7-Aids

8-Unreached people

If our faith in Christ is real; it will usually prove itself in our relationships at home with those who know us best. Children and parents have a responsibility to each other.

v.1—"Children, obey your parents"

Obey means to do as one is told.

Some manuscripts translate it this way: "Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do."

v.2—"Honor **your** father and mother."

Honor means to respect and love. Children are **not** commanded to disobey God in obeying their parents. Adult children are not asked to be **subservient** to domineering parents. Children are to obey while under their parents' care, but the responsibility to honor parents is for life.

v.3—First commandment with a **promise**.

If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.'

Specifically, what does honor include?

a-**respect** their wisdom.

b-Pay attention to their **comfort** and **happiness**.

**The purpose of parental guidance and discipline is to help children grow . . .
not to provoke them to anger or discouragement.
(Colossians 3:21)**

v.4—"Fathers, don't exasperate your children to anger by coming down hard on them."

"Exasperate"—irritate, provoke, annoy extremely

**Frustration and anger cannot be causes for discipline.
Instead, we are to treat them as Jesus treats the people he loves.**

Children's needs include but are not limited to:

- **Connection** which means quality time
- **Communication** which requires listening, learning, and words of affirmation
- **Acceptance** which needs acts of love and service
- **Love** which is often best communicated by physical touch
- **Growing independence** which means you give your child encouragement, support, trust, and the opportunity to grow on their own.
Mom, Dad, and all grandparents have the privilege to share and enjoy Christ's great love with each other.

That's what it means to love your child as Christ loves you!