

HOW TO LIVE LONGER

Ephesians 6:1-4

5 TOP WAYS TO KNOW SOMEONE IS NOT A PARENT

5. When we ask them over, they get there in 10 min. flat.
4. No french fries on the floorboard of their car.
3. Always have "I spent an hour on my makeup" look.
2. Life doesn't revolve around ball games, dental appts & feeding schedules.
1. Know *EVERYTHING* about raising kids!

Society marked by rebellion –everybody fighting for rights!

Paul's solution: new heart=> submission to God & to one another–response only H.S. can produce.

Eph 5:18: "...Be filled with the Spirit" –control by H.S.

Spirit's control changes our life; 4 results: 19-21

1. We praise God *together*
2. We praise God in *personal* worship
3. We *give thanks* for everything
4. We SUBMIT to one another 5:21-6:9

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ!"

TWO KINDS OF SUBMISSION

1. Submission *to one another*
2. Submission *to authority* God established
–flows out of *MUTUAL* submission.

EVIDENCED IN 3 AREAS:

1. wives/husbands (5:22-33)
2. **children/parents** (6:1-4)
3. slaves/masters (6:5-9)

What's submission like in parent-child relationship?

What submission looks like in a child 1-3

2 demonstrations of submission: **Obey Honor**

"Obey" "*Children, obey your parents in the Lord*"

Godly children *obey* parents, because it's right

1 of 1st steps in decline of civilization

Rom. 1:30 When people turn from God to do what they shouldn't do, 1 of marks is disobedience to parents.

2 Tim. 3:1-2 amid degenerating conditions of last days:

"People will be... disobedient to their parents."

Paul uses "**obey**" –rather than "submit"

Doesn't mean they don't have to submit.

For child, submission = obedience

Always? Normally it's always. [when in doubt,...]

Word isn't age related–it's *relationship* oriented

–has to do with *descendancy*, not age.

Applies at least as long as you're living at home
"Obey in the Lord" *"obey your parents in the Lord..."*
Doesn't mean obey if they're Christians.
Means obey *them* as you would obey God
Parental authority comes from GOD.

Children obey *because* they want to obey God!
 1 reason we struggle with this: we don't really believe...

"God is big enough to accomplish His will through our parents!"
"Honor them" 2-3 *"Honor your father & mother"—which*
is 1st commandment with a promise—³"that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long
life on the earth."

To honor means **show respect**
 American Dairy Assoc: "You never outgrow need for milk!"
 => You never outgrow obligation to honor your parents!
 –to treat them with respect.

Can't be forced on child! Must be voluntary—an attitude.

1st command with promise of God's blessing attached

People who submit to authority God has established experience God's blessing & live a long life.

Some children die early, regardless of whether they obey parents. General principle:
children who honor & obey parents live longer—and better!

All of us have experienced negative consequences of ignoring parents' warnings!—danger of high places,

of hot objects, or of keeping wrong friends

What submission looks like in parents 4

"Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Doesn't mean: "never cause them to get angry!"

= "Don't provoke them to anger."

Don't deliberately do things that make children angry.

Don't get carried away with your discipline.

Our goal: nourish, train, instruct, our children

Col. 3:21 Same idea: *"Don't embitter your children, or they'll become discouraged."*

Don't cause them to be discouraged & quit trying.

Focus on **negative side of discipline**

–Bawling them out; Criticizing them

–Placing unjust demands on them

Harsh attitudes & anger=>frustration & discouragement

Positive side of discipline—nourish them.

–involves gentle, tender care

"Men are never more truly men,
than when they're tender with their children!"

With discipline of the Lord = discipling, training,

Discipline exercised properly—provides training

With admonition of the Lord (instruction)

Ideal combination:

Father who is gentle beneath his firmness

Mother who is firm beneath her gentleness.

We're responsible for *pastoral care* of our children:

When **Supreme Court** prohibited prayer in school, cartoon: angry father shouting: "**What do they expect us to do? listen to kids pray at home? !!**"

Dt 6: God places spiritual training on *parents!*

Take advantage of opportunities: at home, on road;
at night, going to bed; or in morning, getting up.

Role as parents=>godly training & instruction to kids

Spiritual nourishment Correction in love

Positive affirmation Natural consequences

PRACTICAL IMPLICATIONS:

1. **Parental responsibility mainly positive, not neg.**
2. **Tendency to only correct what's wrong—bawl out**
3. **Do we spend time encouraging our children?**
4. **When kids do something well, do we celebrate?**
5. **What idea do our kids get when we introduce them to God as our FATHER?**

3 WORDS OF CAUTION:

1. **Be careful about judging others.**

Don't send people on guilt trip over kids' errant ways.

Child's relationship to God is his/her responsibility

Biblical precedent abounds for bad children from godly parents. People who know truth *do* reject it.

2. **Don't underestimate God's grace**

If bad children sometimes come from godly parents, cases abound of children who had every reason to turn out wrong, but **God** turned them around.

We all fail at times in applying biblical guidelines.

If we fail, God can still overcome that disadvantage

Trust Him to do His work in our children

Be available as His instrument in their lives!

3. **Present condition is not the final story.**

As long as child lives there's hope of turning around.

We never know, even at end, what God does in heart.

We entrust kids to God who loves them more than we do!

Keep praying! God won't give up on them. Should WE?

4 Bits of Advice for Parents:

1) Look for ways to spend time with your children

2) Look for ways to show them love

–even when you have to discipline them

3) Take advantage of spontaneous opportunities

to talk or do things together

4) Prepare them in advance for issues they'll face.

Children: follow God's counsel to obey & honor parents, so you can embrace life to the fullest.

Parents: take advantage of opportunity God gives us:

to invest our life in children He entrusts to us—in love.

***Such submissive relationships only come
when Spirit controls our heart!***