

Series: Ephesians: Christ's Life In Us

Sermon: A Worthy Home (Children & Parents)

Passage: Ephesians 6:1-4

Illustration:

Need: Because of who we are in Christ, children and parents can serve Jesus at home in their own unique roles.

I. The home is where children primarily live out their faith in action and attitude. (6:1-3)

- All children need the intentional loving supervision and training of a loving adult.
- Paul instructs the children of the believers by pointing them to the Lord Jesus. (**Col. 3:20**)
- Obedience is the action - to follow, to follow instructions, be subject to.
- Obedience is a choice just like submission & love.
- This extends to step-parents, grandparents, guardians, foster parents, teachers, principals, baby-sitters, coaches, etc., and any other individuals the parent places in authority over their child. (also civil authority)
- Parents can be wrong, unkind, inconsiderate, and at times even mean. The proper response is to obey.
- Obedience is the same even if the kids are believers and the parents are not.
- Children should not obey instructions that are illegal, immoral, unethical, or dangerous. Tell someone!
- Honor is the attitude - to show high regard for, honor, revere, respect.
- Disrespect of parents is always disrespect to Jesus. Jesus never approves of disrespect or defiance.
- Jesus leads the way for children in the area of obedience and honor. (**Luke 2:51-52**)

II. The home is where children are to be disciplined and trained. (6:4)

- The home has always been God's sacred haven for evangelism and discipleship. (**Deut. 6:4-9**)
- Too many parents are overbearing with their children. They exasperate them and lead them to anger.
 - unreasonable demands for perfection
 - constant nagging over minor infractions
 - leaving no room for expression and growth
 - providing no affirmation or encouragement
 - harsh, unloving rebukes or cruelty, physical abuse
 - public embarrassment, verbal abuse
 - inconsistent or extreme discipline
 - favoritism
 - overprotective hovering
- A parent must be intentional in they are going to "bring up" their children, raise them to adulthood.
- Discipline - the act of providing guidance for responsible living, training, instruction, discipline, correction
- Instruction - counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct, admonishment
- Bringing up, discipline, and instruction can't just be about Jesus but a consistent investment in their own faith.
- Husbands and wives who are not submitting, respecting, or loving each other are also not like affectively raising their kids.

III. Application for Families:

- Children at home - decide to obey & honor God by obeying & honoring your parents.
- Adult children - are you honoring your parents? Allow God the Holy Spirit to lead you to that end.
- Parents with kids - we've got to get it right at home. Nothing else is working if it's broken at home!
- Parents of adults - don't ever quit investing in the faith of your kids and grandkids.