

Mutually Submitting Differently: Children
Ephesians 6:1-4
November 6, 2005 – Dave Desforge Preaching

Scripture Text: - Ephesians 6:1-4

¹ Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

² "Honor your father and mother" -- which is the first commandment with a promise -- ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Father and Son

1) In the prelude, Bill Cosby had a comic reflection of the everyday challenges of parent/child relationships. How does this morning's sermon connect to this sketch?

2) What things did you see in each of the three scenarios of the drama sketch?

Obey in the LORD

3) How is this obedience founded on trust in God – rather than the performance of the parents?

4) The particular word for obey here is used 21 times in the New Testament. Get a sense of it's meaning by looking at these examples:

Matthew 8:27

Mark 1:27

Acts 6:7

Romans 6:16

Hebrews 11:8

5) How is this obedience different that the "submission" spoken of in the husband/wife relationship?

6) In what ways does Paul speak here to parents and children in a way that is different from the surrounding culture of his time? What are the Gospel roots of this difference?

7) How is Paul's intention in this passage misconstrued when we try and make obedience

For the sake of the parents

A matter of looking good in front of others

A management solution for family efficiency

Ageism

Three Reasons for Obedience

8) Paul gives three reasons for children to obey their parents. Explain the meaning and application of each one, including reference to the phrase in Ephesians 6 that they come from:

A. Natural Law

B. A Promise of God

C. The Gospel

The Gospel Makes Everything Different

9) In what ways is today's teaching on parent/child relationships different for you?

A. How can it affect your role as parent, if applicable?

B. How can it affect your role as a child, even if grown?

10) Remember the context of this passage. It with the admonition to "Be filled with the Holy Spirit" (5:18). Four applications follow, the fourth being "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." (5:21). This passage is now one of three illustrations of that Spirit-filled submission. How do the Holy Spirit and submission connect to us responding with obedience?

Freedom for our families

11) Bryan Chapell will be speaking at Grace Fri, Nov 11 & Sat Nov 12. Read through this paragraph from one of his books and discuss how it relates to the sermon this morning.

When the truths of grace began to touch my wife and me, we needed to change the way that we talked to our children. I used to say to my son, "Colin, because of what you did you are a bad boy." I would characterize him by his actions. But then I recognized that this is not the way God treats me. The grace that identifies me as God's child is not based on my actions. He characterizes me based on my relationship with him, not on the basis of what I have done. My union with Christ (the indicative of who I am) precedes and motivates my obedience (the imperative). Thus, to treat our children as God treats us, my wife and I put ourselves under the discipline of saying to our son, "Colin, don't do that, because you are my child." In essence, we urged our son, "Be what you are, our beloved," rather than, "Do, so you will be loved."

Holiness By Grace, Bryan Chapell, p. 129

Prayer Together

1) Where do you need a fresh filling of the Holy Spirit to empower your obedience?