

Mutually Submitting Differently: Parent and Child
Ephesians 6:1-4
November 13, 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.

Mixed Models

1) What can we learn about parenting from the three movie clips from this morning? IN particular, what might the heart issues have been in each of the three Dads?

Exasperation

2) Was there a "point of exasperation" in your relationship with your parents?

How have you worked through that as an adult?

3) How would your children – if applicable – answer question #2?

4) Why is it so important for parents to "go below the behavior" of their behaviors that exasperating to their children to understand their own heart and motivations?

Parents Feeding Themselves, Or Their Children

5:29 - After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he **feeds** and cares for it, just as Christ does the church –

5) How does it change your understanding of the term "bring them up" from this morning's passage is the same word "feeds" in Ephesians 5:29?

6) How does this contrast with exasperation – the adversative "instead."

7) What kinds of heart issues may be at work when we as parents look to our kids and “how they are doing” for our:

A. Sense of value or righteousness – “I’m OK because my kids are doing OK”

B. Do-over – “I wasn’t OK, so I’ll make sure they are.”

C. My compensation – “I’m not OK, and they need to make me feel OK.”

8) How can you nourish what God is doing in the life of a child – your own child(ren) if you are a parent – in your circle of relationship?

Discipline

9) How deeply in your own mind or heart is the connection between “discipline” and “punishment?”

10) What does it mean to say that Proverbs 22:6 (and other passages like it) is a “general principle” for child training and not a “recipe” that guarantees a particular outcome?

Prayer Together