

3/8/20

God's Role For Children, Pt. 2
Eph. 6:2-3, #10

The aggressive abandonment of the Judea-Christian world view for children in America has progressively been replaced by the humanistic world view of children, resulting in children, teens and young adults that are one of the most disrespectful, violent and void of conscience than previous generations in America.

* The Public-Schools and the Universities are the "Trojan Horse" to America and supported by the judicial, legislative and at times the executive branch to deny our national godly heritage by a twisted interpretation of our Constitution.

Congressman James Traficant (DOH), on June 20, 2000 noted: "The Supreme Court says pornography is OK and it is OK to burn the flag, that communists can work in our defense plants, that it is OK to teach witchcraft in our schools and that it is OK for our students to write papers about the devil. But the Supreme Court says it is illegal to write papers about Jesus, it is illegal to pray in school, and now the Supreme Court says it is even illegal to pray before a football game. Beam me up. I thought the founders intended to create a Supreme Court, not the Supreme Being." He called the majority of justices so "politically correct" and so "downright stupid" that "they could throw them-selves at the ground and miss.

* Children Don't Have a Prayer !

The Scriptures tell us of the ungodly generations that arise on earth at different times. Prov. 30:11-14

1. There is a generation that curses its father, And does not bless its mother. vs. 11
2. There is a generation that is pure in its own eyes, Yet is not washed from its filthiness. vs. 12
3. There is a generation--oh, how lofty are their eyes! And their eyelids are lifted up. vs. 13
4. There is a generation whose teeth are like swords, And whose fangs are like knives, To devour the poor from off the earth, And the needy from among men. vs. 14

* What a perfect description of this generation!

In our last study we focused on the command to children, teens and young adults born again that are to obey their parents, which focused on their actions.

The reasons for their obedience were several.

1. They are sons and daughters under parental authority.
2. They are commanded by God to obey.
3. They are to live out their position in "the Lord".
4. They are to obey because it is right, proper, appropriate and fitting.

The second command focuses on the young person's attitude, that of honoring father and mother marked by three characteristics. Eph. 6:2-3

- I. The command to honor parents is personal.
vs. 2a
 - II. The command to honor parents is a priority.
vs. 2b
 - III. The command to honor parents has a
promise. vs. 3
- I. The command to honor parents is personal.
vs. 2a**
- * “Honor your father and mother.”
- A. The command to honor regards both parents.
 - 1. The father is to be honored due to the fact that he is the head of the home.
 - a. The one who is giving the direction to the family.
 - b. The one who is looking out for their welfare and safety.
 - c. The one who is providing the financial resources, so the mother can carry out her care and supervision of the children in the home.
 - d. The one who may or may not be a Christian, nevertheless he is the head of the home by God’s design.
 - e. The father had absolute legal power over a son to scourge, imprison, put him in chains or even death. “patria potestas”
 - 2. The mother is to be honored because she is the complement or counter-part to the father.
 - a. The one who is one with the father.

- b. The one who completes the father.
 - c. The one who spends and is being spent constantly for the good of the family and home.
 - d. The one who may not be a Christian, nevertheless the submissive helper to the father, according to God’s design.
 - * The one who has carried the child in her womb for nine months, nurses, changes, nourishes and cared for, till they leave the home.
- 3. The home is defined by a father, a mother and children.**
- a. This was God’s design from the beginning, when He created Adam and Eve and still is, regardless of the mores and culture of the day.
 - b. Male and female complementing each other not two males or females, as our tolerant and perverted society teaches today.
 - c. Every generation since the beginning of man has attempted to alter the family, in one way or another, but believers never except the distortion of God’s design.
 - d. Every generation has experienced the tragic loss of one parent through death only to experience the loss of the efficiency and complementing benefit provided by the dead parent, revealing

that marriage and family takes two, a man and a woman, not just one.

- e. Now, people inflict this condition on their family through divorce, by not marrying and many other arrangements willfully and society calls it normal!

B. The command to honor both parents is the second command to children.

1. The first command was to obey “hupkouo” as we saw dealt with the actions of the child, teen or young adult.
 - a. Actions can be deceptive.
 - b. Actions do not reveal the intent of the heart.
 - c. Actions can often have ulterior motives.
2. The second command is to honor parents.
 - a. The word honor “timao”, means respect, reverence, to be in awe, with a sense of courtesy and an estimate and fix value on something.
 - 1) The idea being of a young person’s recognized appreciation for who they are and what they do for him or her, as their child.
 - 2) The perception is of one who looks up to another.
 - b. In the Greek LXX the word honor is translated by six Hebrew terms, for God, kings, parents, the elderly, the poor, loyal slaves, doctors, or the temple.

3. The command to honor speaks of the attitude of the son or daughter.
 - a. The reality of the heart, the thoughts and intents.
 - b. The source of the action being love and appreciative value of parents.
 - c. The right attitude will lead to the right action and the action is honorable only if the attitude is right.
 - 1) Some parents have done some very foolish things in their marriage and towards their children, making it very difficult for the child to obey and honor their parents.
 - 2) But the command to honor is to those who have been born-again, not because the parents earned or deserve it, but because God commands it, having the capacity to do so!
4. The word is found throughout the New Testament.
 - a. The word is used by Jesus to honor father and mother in the gospels. Matt. 15:4
Mk. 7:6
* The context of Matthew is financial help as evidence of honoring parents!
 - b. Jesus used it of honor due to God and honor He gave to the Father. Jn. 5:23,
8:49
 - c. Paul uses it to honor widows who are widows indeed, those who have no

family members for financial support.
1Tim. 5:3

- d. Peter uses the word to honor all men in governmental authorities. 1Pet. 2:17
 * Think of the policies of the corrupt Roman government, so you have proper perspective!

Illustration

The youth and the music of Gangster Rappers sing about, “giving them respect”, with all their profane words and immorality, yet what they mean is recognize me with honor for my corrupt life-style without making any judgments, yet the Bible says children and young adults are to highly respect and honor their parents and elders for their invaluable input for life.

Application:

1. Ways we can dishonor our parents.
 - a. By lying and deceiving them, like Jacob in certain areas such as:
 - 1) Dating.
 - 2) Friends.
 - 3) Places you go to, etc.
 - b. By not living as one in the Lord, as Eli’s sons, and the sons of David, Amnon and Absalom. 1Sam. 2; 2Sam. 13
 - 1) Eli’s sons dishonored their father and mother by stealing of the sacrifices and laying with

the women in the tabernacle. And Eli dishonored God!

- 2) David’s sons dishonored their father and mothers, Amnon by raping Tamar and Absalom by murdering Amnon.
 - * “Moreover Absalom would say, "Oh, that I were made judge in the land, and everyone who has any suit or cause would come to me; then I would give him justice.” 2Sam. 15:4
2. Ways we can honor our parents.
 - a. By recognizing they are of great value to your life and not simply to ruin the fun in your life.
 - b. By recognizing what they do and say is out of love to protect you.
 - c. By obeying them in all things that are just and Scriptural. Col. 3:20
 - * Isaac obeyed and honored his father Abraham to the point of death and he was in his late twenties or early thirties. Gen. 22
 - d. By looking out and caring for them as they get older, even as David sought refuge for his parents in Moab. 1Sam. 22:3
 - 1) Too many do not want to be bothered and hand their elderly parents to care takers.
 - 2) There may be a time when it will be necessary, but the entire family should exhaust everything prior to that in good conscience. (My Dad and Mom)

- 3) Go to these convalescent home, they are full of lonely parents who are never are visited by those that are suppose to love them!
- 4) Both parents are included in this honor and the fact they are unbelievers has nothing to do with it, they are your parents!

* Jesus revealed the dishonor of parent in His day by attempting to make it a spiritual sacrifice and service to God saying to their parents that what they were going to help them with was “Corban”, it was made a gift dedicated to God otherwise they would have helped their parents! Mk. 7:11

3. Some Christian children give a bad example of Christianity to their unbelieving parents.

- a. As I have stated some slander their parents and misrepresent them and to present themselves in a better light.
- b. Others negate the message of the gospel by their actions and attitudes towards their parents in word and deeds.

* James tells, “But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful **hearer but a doer** of the word, this one will be blessed in what he does.” Ja. 1:25

The command to honor father and mother is personal to the child, teen or young adult for life!

II. **The command to honor parents is a priority.** **vs. 2b**

* “which is the first commandment with promise.”

A. The commandment is said to be the first of a particular order. vs. 2b

1. The commandment is found in the book of Exodus. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16
 - a. The first thing to note is that the command is the fifth commandment, not the first of the ten.
 - b. The fifth commandment is the first of the second table of the Law, which focuses on man’s relationships to man, while the first table deals with man’s relationship to God, as the foundation for the last six to man.
2. The word first “protos”, is used one hundred times in the New Testament.
 - a. The word is used for something first in order, as well as first in importance or priority, the context would dictate the proper meaning.
 - b. Scholars take different positions, yet I believe that the reference here could refer to both order and importance.
 - c. The first in order of the last six commandments that deal with man’s relationship to man.
 - e. But certainly it is the chief in priority, as a commandment of importance for the

family recognizing God's authority vested to the parents and because it is in the Christian home that we are taught about God and the truth of right and wrong.

- f. This commandment is the foundation guarding against the other commandments in relations to man that follow, murder, adultery, stealing, false witness and coveting that will destroy family life, rather than bring about good benefits in life.

B. The commandment is said to be accompanied with a promise.

1. The word promise "epangelia", means the act of vowing or assuring a blessing or benefit.
 - a. The word is found in this form fifty-three times in the New Testament.
 - b. The Law gave promises and cursing dependent on obedience and disobedience.
2. A promise is only as good as the one who makes it.
 - a. The One promising the child a benefit is God.
 - b. God can not lie. Num. 23:19
 - c. God has always kept all of His promises to His people, be it in blessing or cursing.

3. The promise in our text is for the future of the young person who obeys God, in honoring his father and mother.

- a. The promise of God is to be fulfilled through the most natural process of obedience to God's word and obey and honor father and mother.
- b. The promise is to the believer who has the capacity to obey, not to unbelievers.
- c. The command is not to frustrate or make the life of the child or young person miserable, but to bless them.

C. The command to honor parents, if it is going to have it's full impact, it must be understood in the societal context of that day and the views of children.

1. When a child was born, the child would be placed at the father's feet.
 - a. If he picked the child up he lived.
 - b. If he turned and walked away, it meant a refusal to acknowledge the child, so the child would be killed or put out.
2. When children were put out.
 - a. Many were left on the town square and people would take them and sell them as slaves.
 - b. Others were used for prostitution.
 - c. This is the society that Paul commands children to obey their parents, so think about it before you complain.

3. A personal letter gives us a good sample of that day.
- a. Hilarion to Alis his wife, heartiest greetings, and to my dear Berous and Apollonarian. Know that we are still even now in Alexandria. I beg and beseech of you to take care of the little child, and, as soon as we receive wages, I will send them to you. If good luck to you, you have a child, if it is a boy, let it live; if it is a girl, throw it out. You told Aphrodisias to tell me: “Do not forget me.” How can I forget you? I beg you therefore not to worry.”
 - b. Seneca wrote, “We slaughter fierce ox, strangle mad dogs, we plunge the knife into sickly cattle, lest they taint the herd, children who are born weakly and deformed we drown, the child who was a weakling or imperfectly formed had little chance of survival.
* Children were considered as objects and things, rather than a living person with value.

Illustration

As we hear this, we say how barbaric, yet we have murdered more babies by abortions than the six million Jews Hitler killed. Since 1973 when “Roe versus Wade” was passed we have murdered 52,008,665 infants up to the end of 2009, 61 million

2019. The world Wide abortion counters uses one of the most conservative estimates on the number of abortions world-wide since 1980, 40 Million per year for 40 years and this equals 1.6 Billion abortions. In China 13 million abortions are performed each year. LifeSiteNews.com, Life, Family and Culture News
* About two-thirds (62%) of the women who have abortions in China are aged 20-29 and most are single.

Application

1. Today there is such a shocking parallel and at the same time a greater level of degeneration.
 - a. For women today deny life to the child before birth through abortion.
 - b. Couples can abort just because of the inconvenience of not planning to have a child for it would hinder their plans for travel, carrier or financial.
 - c. The logical explanations given, “It would not be fair for us to bring in this child and so rather than not being able to provide for the child adequately, it is best to abort the child.”
 - e. Sounds sensible, loving and compassionate, but it is nothing short of murder!
* The more sensible and moral thing to do is not to be having sex before you are married!
 - e. The logical reasoning is that it is nothing, but tissue and not really a living person.
 - f. Yet the babies heart beats all on its own eighteen days after conception, before the woman is even aware she is pregnant

2. How about the children that are unwanted and left to themselves, therefore running away and living on the streets resorting to prostitution because they are not given attention, no different than in Paul's days.
 - a. Many have no guidance or instruction.
 - b. There is no love in the home.
 - c. Seeing themselves as a burden to their parents or in the way of their boy-friend or girl-friend.
3. Then there is the reasoning of terminating a child's life because of some abnormality or deformity, sounds like Senecas' day to me
 - a. Today children and teens are living in much the same world of Paul's day!
 - b. It all sounds so logical and compassionate, "Why should we allow it, it is not fair to the child", but it is murder.
 - c. They would be more truthful, if they said it would be embarrassing to them and that they would not want to be burdened with such a child for the rest of their lives.
 - d. The only thing that is considered is the woman's rights, but no one is concerned with the child's rights, in fact the child in the womb has no rights at all, the womb is suppose to be the safest place for a baby, but has become the most dangerous places on earth.
 - e. The woman has rights over her body, until she decides to have sex and gets pregnant, then her rights are forfeited, the life of the child take precedence over her life of pleasure! Now, if

- her life is in danger, the decision falls on her and her husband.
4. Children, teens and young adults are to honor their parents.
 - a. At times honor is given to one, but not the other, due to resentment, bitterness, etc.
 - b. This at times is due to the very influence and words that have come forth from one parent about the other, winning the child over to their side.
 - c. At other times it is the result of hearing constant accusations and charges directed to the other mate.
 - d. Honor is given to one above the other, yet both are one and the honor and respect is to be given to both.
 - e. Both moving as one will strength their oneness and cause the child or teen to see their commitment to God and each other.
 - g. The problem with being under authority as a young person, is that we think we know it all or know better than our parents, IK's.
 - h. All the commands are in view of the new capacity God has given to the child and teenager.

The command to honor father and mother is to be a priority to the child, teen or young adult in life!

III. The command to honor parents has a promise. vs. 3

- A.** The promise attached to honoring one's parents is that one will experience a quality of life.
* "That it may be well with you."
1. That the young person may be the recipient of the best life has to offer.
 - a. Honoring father and mother, they honor God.
 - b. Honoring father and mother, they honor God's word.
 - c. Honoring father and mother is honored with the blessings of life given by God.
 2. The young person who is honoring father and mother is laying a foundation for all the others relationships that follow.
 - a. They are honoring the Divine pattern for the family.
 - b. They are recognizing God's wisdom in the family structure.
 - c. They are training to be parents to their own children by first being doers of the word.
 - d. Honoring father and mother is the chief commandment in importance because it is the heart and source of all that follows.
 3. This does not imply that a child, teen or young adult will not experience anything negative, if they honor their parents.
 - a. They are not excluded from sufferings.
 - b. They are not exempt from illnesses.
 - c. They are not guaranteed escaping ridicule or persecution.

- d. The promise is that God will be with the young person providing the best for their life in and through the circumstances God allows to take place!
 - e. Jesus said that He came to give us life and life more abundantly. Jn. 10:10
- B.** The promise attached to honoring one's parents is that one will experience also quantity of life.
* "And live long on the earth."
1. The promise of God to the Christian child and teenager is long life on earth physically.
 - a. The quality is expressed by the phrase "that it may be well with you", the quantity by the phrase "And live long on the earth".
 - b. The mere wisdom of obedience in life provides a better chance of living longer.
 - c. The Law stated any son or daughter who struck their parents or cursed them was to be put to death. Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 20:9
 - d. Discipline and consequences do have an effect for deterrence, consequences are a mark of love for the child.
* Capital punishment is a deterrent, if practiced consistently! Gen. 9:5-6
 - e. Whenever there is loss of respect and honor for parents society becomes decadent and people in public life are endangered and at risk, like our society today.

- f. Proverbs says, “He who spares his rod hates his son, but he who loves him disciplines him promptly, early or diligently.” Prov. 13:24
- 2. The promise of God to the Christian child and teenager is eternal life on earth and in heaven spiritually.
 - a. The minute a person accepts the Lord as His Lord and Savior, he or she is given eternal life.
 - 1) “He who has the Son has life and he who has not the Son has not life and the wrath of God abides in him.” Jn. 3:36
 - 2) “He has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed or transferred us into the kingdom of the Son of His love.” Col. 1:13
 - b. The minute a person dies physically in the Lord, they are instantly present with the Lord.
 - 1) Paul told the Philippians he was hard pressed between two things, a desire to depart to be present with Christ, which was far better. Nevertheless to remain in the flesh was more needful for them. Phil. 1:23-24
 - 2) Paul understood that the minute we are absent from this earthly tent we are present in our eternal one immediately. 2Cor. 5:1-8

Illustration

It is much like learning addition and subtraction, they are the first in order and priority of importance to do well in all other math in the years ahead, they are foundational, so the honor to parents.

Application

1. The quality of life that Christian children, teens and young adults can experience is of the highest.
 - a. In honoring one’s parents, one has already decided to honor God and God says, “He who honors me, I will honor, and those who despise Me shall be lightly esteemed.” 1Sam. 2:30
 - b. In honoring one’s parents, one will avoid bad company or influences that will tempt or ensnare them into sin. 1Cor. 10:13
 - c. In honoring one’s parents one is not living under any guilt or on the road to a callused conscience but the peace of God, “There is no peace,” says the LORD, “for the wicked.”. Is. 48:22
 - d. Much of my conduct as a child and teen in the world, though I was no saint, but when something ran a real high risk, I was controlled by my desire not to dishonor and disappoint my parents, if I got caught.
2. The quantity of life that Christian children, teens and young adults can experience is a long life in terms of years.
 - a. On a physical level, right living according to God’s word results in true happiness and right

relationships, which often will keep us from illnesses and deterioration of our bodies.

b. On a emotional level we can enjoy the long life and see it as a blessing because of the quality of life not yielding to resentment, bitterness and anger, etc.

- 1) We have all experienced personally the affects of not controlling our emotions, but rather giving in to them!
- 2) How does your stomach feel, your heart, the muscles in your neck and the back of your head?
- 3) How fast is your heart beating when you are doing something you shouldn't!

c. On a spiritual level God will afflict some with illness and others with death. 1Cor. 11:30; 1Jn. 5:17

- 1) Some die young, due to their choices of life-style.
- 2) Others die young due to the affects of the fall that introduce illness and disease.
- 3) Yet, some of the most ungodly people live longer than Christians who are obedient to the parents, but do not let this make you envious, for they have missed out on walking with God and they will perish eternally! Ps. 73

3. The evidence of our society is that most young people in our nation are disobedient to parents, dishonor them and are self-willed.

* The Day American Told The Truth, 1991, this is 29 years ago;

- a.** Young men did most of our killing and dying. The homicide rate among young American males is twenty times that of Western Europe and forty times the Japanese rate. (P. 120)
- b.** The United states had the twenty times the number of rapes reported in Japan, England and Spain. (P. 120)
- c.** The national projection figures on date rape was as many as 19 million women that had been victims of date rape in America. (P. 129)
- d.** Twenty six million Americans carried a weapon with them , usually a knife or a handgun. (P. 132)
- e.** The evidence of a hopeless society was most evident by the total of 30,000 suicides that took place yearly in America. (P. 133)
* 2017 there were 47,173 suicides in America!
- f.** The music of our youth caters to the violence, vulgarity and dishonor of all that stands for authority and honorable, not to mention the movie industry!

4. The testimony of a king who lived like a fool has been preserved for us, do not let it go to waste, listen to him. Eccl. 12:1 13-14

- a.** Solomon said, "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth, Before the difficult days come, And the years draw near when you say, "I have no pleasure in them": vs. 1

- b. “Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man’s all. For God will bring every work into judgment, Including every secret thing, Whether good or evil.” vs 13-14
- c. Young people listen to how good you have it in America, “Our forefathers did without sugar until the 13th century; without coal fires until the 14th century; without battered bread until the 15th century; without potatoes until the 16th century; without coffee until the 17th century; without pudding until the 18th century; without eggs, matches, and electricity until the 19th century; without canned goods until the 20th century. Now, what was it we were complaining about?” #746

The command to honor father and mother for the child, teen or young adult has a promise of long life!

Conclusion

The command of Paul to children, to honor their father and mother is characterized by:

- I.** The command to honor parents is personal for life!
- II.** The command to honor parents is a priority in life!
- III.** The command to honor parents has a promise of long life!