

SPIRIT-FILLED CHILDREN

Ephesians 6:1-3

7/25/10

The first part of our passage this morning is addressed to those of you who are under the age of 18.

However, most of our passage is addressed to all of us, regardless of our age.

1. **Obey your parents. 6:1**

This of course is addressed to children before they reach the age of adulthood.

Cf 5:31

Obey- to follow their instructions; to comply with their wishes; submit to their rules (whether you like them or agree with them or not)

Proverbs 6:20 My son, observe the commandment of your father And do not forsake the teaching of your mother;

Proverbs 13:1 A wise son *accepts his* father's discipline, But a scoffer does not listen to rebuke.

Proverbs 15:5 A fool rejects his father's discipline, But he who regards reproof is sensible.

You may not like it, and you may not agree with it, but you are to obey your parents unless they tell you to do something that God forbids.

Something that is immoral, illegal, or contrary to what God tells us to do in the Bible.

Obey your parents

Notice that children are to obey both parents.

The fact that the wife is to submit to her husband's leadership does not remove her parental dignity or authority.

In the Lord

This does not mean that you are to obey only your parents if they are Christians.

It means that when you are submitting to your parents you are submitting to the Lord.

The Lord gave them to you.

God works through their weaknesses in your life to develop certain qualities in you.

For this is right

Obedience is not merely appropriate, it is God's righteous standard.

Deuteronomy 21:18-21 "If any man has a stubborn and rebellious son who will not obey his father or his mother, and when they chastise him, he will not even listen to them,¹⁹ then his father and mother shall seize him, and bring him out to the elders of his city at the gateway of his hometown.²⁰ "They shall say to the elders of his city, 'This son of ours is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey us, he is a glutton and a drunkard.'²¹ "Then all the men of his city shall stone him to death; so you shall remove the evil from your midst, and all Israel will hear *of it* and fear.

Likewise, the Mosaic law prescribed the death penalty for a child who struck or cursed a parent (Ex. 21:15, 17; Lev. 20:9)

Romans 1:30 and **2 Timothy 3:2** both list disobedience to parents as one of the serious sins.

Colossians 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

We are to obey our parents as long as we are:

Legally under their authority

Living in their home

This is true even when you think they are wrong in their reasoning or attitudes.

You can respectfully appeal.

2. **Honor your father and mother. 2-3**

Honor- to treat them as valuable and important; to treat them with respect and deference

This is often hard.

Some in our congregation have parents who are alcoholics, drug addicts, and prostitutes.

Some of you have parents who have, abandoned the family and run off with someone else.

Some have parents who are selfish or irrational

Some have parents who have major anger issues.

Some have parents who were abusive.

None of us have had perfect parents.

But the Bible teaches that we are to treat them with honor and respect.

Even though they don't deserve it

Even though they may not have acted very honorably

Leviticus 19:3 'Every one of you shall reverence his mother and his father . . . I am the LORD your God.

Honor involves more than outward obedience, it also involves your attitude.

It is seen in how you speak to them

At one time, a parent's request was met by a "Yes sir", "Okay", or at least an "Oh, all right."

Today parents are more likely to get, "Don't have a cow!" or "Chill out!"

Honor is also seen in how we remember them and care for them as they get older.

Mark 7:10-13 "For Moses said, 'HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER'; and, 'HE WHO SPEAKS EVIL OF FATHER OR MOTHER, IS TO BE PUT TO DEATH';¹¹ but you say, 'If a man says to *his* father or *his* mother, whatever I have that would help you is Corban (that is to say, given *to God*),'¹² you no longer permit him to do anything for *his* father or *his* mother;¹³ *thus* invalidating the word of God by your tradition . . .

Honoring our parents means that we are to help care for them when they get older.

This doesn't mean that we are to enable wrong and irresponsible behavior.

The first commandment with a promise."

In fact it is the only one of the ten commandments with a promise.

a. So that it may be well with you.

Few things will affect the outcome of your life as much as how we respond to your parents.

When you rebel against your parents you are in danger of:

1. The natural consequences of your rebellion cf Proverbs 6:20-23

The consequences of immorality, drugs, drunk driving, wrong friends, from the foolish use of money etc.

The consequence of becoming just like them

2. The removal of God's protection

Proverbs 20:20 He who curses his father or his mother, His lamp will go out in time of darkness.

3. God's active discipline

Deuteronomy 27:16 'Cursed is he who dishonors his father or mother.'

b. So that you may live long on the earth.

Proverbs 3:1-2 My son, do not forget my teaching, But let your heart keep my commandments; ² For length of days and years of life And peace they will add to you.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks a father And scorns a mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

Honoring your father and mother could very well extend the length of your life.

I have found many people in their 20's, 30's, and 40's who are still bitter toward their parents

They blame their parents for all their problems.

Perhaps you have a good reason to be critical of your mom or dad.

Neglect, abuse, favoritism, selfishness

Perhaps they didn't protect you when you were young and vulnerable.

I have met people who are unwilling to forgive their parents.

They constantly criticize their parents or passively ignore them.

Yet God repeatedly tells us to treat them with honor and respect.

Proverbs 23:22 Listen to your father who begot you, And do not despise your mother when she is old.

Life Responses

- 1. Honor your earthly parents.**
 - a. For your own well-being.**

- You quality of life will be enhanced.
- Your length of life could very well be extended.

b. For the sake of your relationship with God

If you want to be right with God, you need to do what you can to get right with your parents.

You won't grow spiritually until you deal with your bitterness and/or rebelliousness against your mom or dad.

2. Be sure that you are a child of God.

John 8:44 "You are of *your* father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father.

John 3:3-6 Jesus answered and said to him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." ⁴ Nicodemus said to Him, "How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born, can he?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. ⁶ "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, *even* to those who believe in His name,