Honoring Christ in Our Home

Ephesians 6:1-4

Introduction

There’s no doubt that parenting is a challenging job.

- The busyness of life.
- The influence of media and the internet.
- Our culture is becoming more hostile to Christianity.
- The challenges that go with technology.

The time we have with our children goes by very quickly.

God has a word for children and parents that can help us to honor Christ in our home.

I. God’s instruction for children. Verses 1-3

Obey your parents in the Lord.

- Obedience starts with listening.
- For this is right – virtually every society is built on the idea that children should obey their parents.
- It isn’t a blind obedience. It is in the Lord.
- In a Christian home, parents are to be role models who help their children to grow in all areas – physically, mentally, spiritually and socially.

Honor your parents.

- To honor is more than to obey. It is to respect and esteem. It is how we show love to those who are in authority over us.
- It is the first commandment with a promise - of blessing and long life.

Does obedience lead to a longer and fuller life? Generally yes.

In learning to honor and obey our parents, we learn to honor and obey God. That is the road to blessing.

If you have parents who love the Lord, you are blessed.

II. God’s instruction for parents. Verse 4

Do not exasperate your children. (Do not provoke them to anger.)

- The feelings of the child are to be taken into account.
How can a father or mother exasperate their children?

- By being unreasonable in what we ask.
- Be unrealistic expectations.
- By being overly critical and harsh.

The result is that a child loses heart and gives up or they get angry and rebel.

**Children Learn What They Live**  
**By Dorothy Law Nolte, Ph.D.**

If children live with criticism, they learn to condemn.  
If children live with hostility, they learn to fight.  
If children live with ridicule, they learn to feel shy.  
If children live with shame, they learn to feel guilty.  
If children live with encouragement, they learn confidence.  
If children live with tolerance, they learn patience.  
If children live with praise, they learn appreciation.  
If children live with acceptance, they learn to love.  
If children live with approval, they learn to like themselves.  
If children live with fairness, they learn justice.  
If children live with kindness and consideration, they learn respect.  
If children live with security, they learn to have faith in themselves and in those about them.  
If children live with friendliness, they learn the world is a nice place in which to live.

Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

- Build them up with gentleness and tenderness.  
- Training has to do with discipline.  
- Instruction involves teaching, both formally and informally.

From personal experience there were four things that Gail and I tried to do consistently.

- Pray – our best parenting tool.  
- Model – be genuine. Let them see Jesus in you.  
- Teach – by your life and words.  
- Bless – be an encourager.

Conclusion

It takes a long time to raise a man! Or a woman!

But oh the joy when our children love God and want to serve him.