

WHERE THE RUBBER MEETS THE ROAD

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

- Children are to obey their parents because...
6:1-3
 - Of their loyalty to Jesus.
 - This is right.
 - The Old Testament reinforces this.
 - God promises prosperity and long-life to those who do.

- Parents are not to provoke their children to anger, but to nurture them tenderly.
6:4
 - Fathers have the leading responsibility in nurturing children.
 - We nurture our children by disciplining them.
 - We nurture our children by instructing them in the Lord.

FURTHER UP, FURTHER IN

1. How have you seen a shift in the relationships between children and parents in your lifetime?
2. Read Ephesians 6:1-3. Looking over the instructions and motivations for children to be obedient to their parents, what stands out to you? What was new to you?
3. Consider the original context of the passages Paul cites (Exodus 20:12, Deut 5:16). What implications does this have for how adults treat their parents?
4. Read Ephesians 6:4. Why do you think “fathers” are addressed directly? (see Eph 5:23, 1 Cor 11:3, Gen 2:18) What are the implications of this for parenting? What does it look like for husbands to be leaders in parenting their children? What does it look like for wives to affirm their husbands leadership in parenting?
5. What area of your parenting do you need to grow in? Why do you say this?
6. Discuss the following biblical principles of disciplining children: Hebrews 5:5-11; Proverbs 19:18, 23:13, 13:24, 29:15, 22:15. How do you apply these? Are there other passages on discipline that are meaningful to you?
7. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Discuss what it looks like to live out verses 6-7. How can you grow in instructing your children in the Lord?

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“I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. . . . Come further up, come further in!” — C.S. Lewis, The Last Battle