

## **JESUS FIRST**

*Gospel-Disciplined Children, Parents & Fathers Make Jesus Shine*

### **EPHESIANS 6:1-4**

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20 May A.D. 2012

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- 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 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.
- 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

#### **ONE: Children have a part in making Jesus' redemption shine...**

##### **Ephesians 6:1a**

**Children** (as a grouping like wives, husbands)

**Parents:** Mom & Dad are to be obeyed (1<sup>st</sup> use of *obey* in these lists)

**in the Lord:** this is the context and the motivation for your obedience...

As wives in the gospel "redeem/undo" Eve's disobedience and the resulting desire to rule her husband by submitting and reverencing/honoring him...

As husbands in the gospel "redeem/undo" Adam's failure to love and cherish God and Eve (he joined her disobedience) by ruling via sacrificing love as Jesus Christ did...

So children in the Lord (gospel) "redeem/undo" Cain's dishonoring of God and their parents by obeying them as unto the Lord...

#### **TWO: As marriage portrays Christ and his church, parents point to the Father of life who was present in the garden and in the Tabernacle and is now present in His Son.**

**for this is right**

This commandment (Exodus 20/Deuteronomy 5) is the transition from the commandments relating to God and the commandment relating to our fellow humans.

## Honor your Father and Mother

Which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.

**THREE: Fathers father well when they let Jesus be the way, the truth and the life for their children...**

**Fathers (mothers are not excluded but the father as head bears the weight...)**

**Do not provoke your children to anger,**

**but bring them up**

**in the discipline**

**and instruction**

**of the Lord**

Klyne Snodgrass, *NIV Application Commentary: Ephesians* (Zondervan, 1966) gives a good grid flowing out of 6:4:

- (1) Creating a context of grace, love, support, respect and encouragement
- (2) Always speaking the truth in love
- (3) Attending to the material and emotional needs of children
- (4) Teaching, enlightening, warning, holding accountable, and disciplining, all as part of life lived to Christ, giving them a theology
- (5) Giving experiences, especially in work and caring for others
- (6) Refusing to put down, demean, or damage them (shrill and angry speech does not belong)
- (7) Rejecting jealousy and contempt
- (8) Granting freedom within legitimate boundaries
- (9) Avoiding unhealthy pressure or expectations
- (10) Refusing to live through the children

Recommended Resources:

***Shepherding a Child's Heart, Revised & Updated:*** Tedd Tripp, 1995, Shepherd Press (focus is younger children)

***Age of Opportunity: a Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens, Second Edition:*** Paul David Tripp, 2001, Presbyterian & Reformed