

THE SPIRIT-CONTROLLED FAMILY

Part 1 – Parental Authority

Ephesians 6:1-3

Introduction:

- A. Conflict between generations
 - 1. Has happened since the b_____
 - 2. Directly related to the f_____ structure
 - 3. Ex_____ advice changes in every generation.
- B. The ultimate goal of the Christian family in every generation
 - 1. Should NOT be for the whole family to conform to the same ph_____ of dress, finances, and morality (even though these need to be addressed)
 - 2. Should be to be c_____ by the Holy Spirit.
- C. Ephesians 6:1-4 pictures the Spirit-controlled family
 - 1. This chapter is still in the context of the command of 5:18, to be f_____ with the Spirit.
 - 2. This subject is the s_____ application of submitting to one another in the fear of Christ (5:21); the first was marriage.
 - 3. There are two topics these verses cover in the area of family
 - a. Parental authority (vv. 1-3) – today’s topic
 - b. Parental discipline (v. 4) – next week’s topic

Children must r_____ their parents’ God-given authority (1).

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- A. Greek word translated as *obey* literally means to h_____ under and does not refer to slavish obedience (the prefix + root word)
 - 1. The root word *to hear* does not just mean to receive words and understanding them, but requires a positive r_____
 - a. I Jn 5:14 promises that God hears us when we pray according to His w_____.
 - b. I Jn 5:15 defines for us what it means for God to hear us – He r_____ positively and gives us what we ask.
 - 2. The prefix *under* refers to the action of submitting
 - 3. So, *to hear under*, means respectfully listening and positively responding to a parent’s commands.
- B. The phrase *in the Lord* can be understood in three ways
 - 1. As describing the p_____, which would mean those who are in the Lord (i.e. who are believers) – Rom 16:8; 1Cor 7:39
 - 2. As defining the sphere of the a_____ of obedience – obey as long as it is in line with the Lord.

3. As describing the c_____ - the Greek text reads *obey the parents of you in the Lord* (i.e. you who are in the Lord).
- C. The purpose for respectful obedience comes from a timeless principle found in the f_____ commandment of the Ten commandments (Ex 20:12)
1. That it be well with you – a good q_____ of life.
 2. That you live long on the earth – a good q_____ of life
 3. Children must respectfully obey their parents because God has placed parents over them to provide them a good and long life.

Adults are released from their parent's authority

- A. The definition of a child - One who has not reached a state of in_____
1. Marriage is a definite event that takes two people out from under their parents' authority
 - a. A man shall l_____ his father and mother – physical independence and financial independence
 - b. The man and his bride become one f_____ - they are a new family unit.
 2. Once moving beyond childhood, seeking a_____ from parents is okay but there is no requirement in taking it.
- B. What about adults living under the same roof as their parents?
1. Parents are never to treat them as children but as r_____ of their home.
 2. As residents, they are to abide by the r_____ their parents have for living there (e.g. no pets).
 3. If financially dependent on parents, they are under their financial authority.
- C. What is adulthood?
1. It is not a specific a_____ (e.g. 18, 22, 25).
 2. It is when one is r_____ ready to meet all the challenges of adulthood (1Cor 13:11)

Conclusion – a recipe for having Spirit-controlled children

Pour 1 cup of Prov 12:1 – l_____ discipline and knowledge
 Add 2 T of Prov 19:20 – l_____ to counsel and accept discipline
 to gain wisdom.
 Season with 1 tsp of Prov 3:5,6 – t_____ the Lord with the whole
 heart so you can be directed by Him.