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“Sons and Daughters”

Week 4 - In our quest to answer important questions about the home sphere, this week we look at ‘What does it mean to be a son or daughter?’

Key text: Ephesians 6:1-3 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

The importance of obedience to your parents.

- Obey - to hear under authority, to listen attentively, to heed and to follow.
- In the Lord - Qualifies the parent/child relationship based on what God commands for both parents and kids. “In the Lord” means to follow God’s plan.
 - Parents’ instruction should be in line with the heart and will of God. Parents, it’s your responsibility to know what this is.
- For this is right - learning obedience is right for everyone because it is foundational for trust and love.
 - It is right because obedience pleases God and it’s a primary way we show our love for Jesus.

John 14:15 (ESV) “If you love me, you will keep my commandments.

- It is right to learn to obey your parents because everyone will be under authority in life. (Hebrews 12:9)
- What does obeying our parents look like?

Proverbs 1:8 (ESV) Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and forsake not your mother's teaching,

- Paying attention - recognizing your parents have God-given authority over you.
- Understanding - a heart to gain wisdom, seek to grow by listening.
- Responding appropriately in obedience.

Proverbs 22:15 (ESV) Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

- Folly/foolishness is a lack of wisdom, discernment, or moral insight.
- As parents, we need to adjust our parenting plans to the growth and maturity of our kids.
- At what age does obeying our parents stop?

John 9:20-21 (ESV) His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.”

- When you leave and cleave in marriage, you now lead your own family. You are free from obeying your parents, but not free from honoring them.
- Young adults, when you choose to live on your own, not receiving financial support, food, shelter, insurance, etc., you are responsible to govern your own life.
- Remember, we all remain under God’s authority.

The importance of honoring your parents

Ephesians 6:2-3 (ESV) “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

- Honor - to value, to revere, to respect.
- Authority changes with age and position; honor does not.
- Honor is not the same as obedience.
- Honoring our father and mother reminds us that God has placed people in authority over us.
- Honoring your father and your mother can be an incredible opportunity to share [the love of God](#) with them.

The way we respect our parents says a lot about how we show respect to God. Honoring our father and our mother teaches us how to better honor our Heavenly Father.

What does the promise Paul refers to “so that it may go well with you” mean?

- Our lives tend to go better when we honor others.
- We find favor with God when we honor our parents because parenting is part of God’s design.
- Honoring our parents carries over into all relationships and that serves us well in life.

Practical relationship skills with your parents.

Speaking to Kids

- Choose to be a listener to understand them.
- Obey them without talking back.
- Express appreciation.
- Tell the truth - honesty builds trust.
- Invite their opinion and advice - experience and wisdom is invaluable.
- Serve your parents with a grateful heart.
- Speak well of your parents.

Speaking to adults, what if your parents’ actions are hurtful?

- ‘They are overly controlling, manipulative or even abusive.’
- ‘My parents are divorced and toxic toward each other.’
- ‘My parents are addicts.’
- ‘They don’t honor God and disrespect my faith.’
- ‘They have poor judgement and/or are not trustworthy with my kids.’

How do I honor them under those circumstances?

- Pray for them regularly. Philippians 4:5-9
- Guard your heart against bitterness and unforgiveness toward them. 2 Cor 10:5
- Have healthy boundaries that are communicated respectfully to them.
- Separate the person from their sickness, their addiction, or their sin.

What if your parents are deceased? Remember if you are in Christ, you have been adopted as a son or daughter of King Jesus.

Small Group Discussion Questions:

- Read Exodus 20:12 - What does God mean by this statement?
- Is it easy or difficult for you to honor your parents? Why?
- How would you rate your level of obedience toward God?
- What do you know about God that motivates you to obey Him?
- How can you show honor to someone you don’t agree with or don’t feel safe with?



Sample Small Group Questions
<https://bit.ly/GroupDiscussionQuestions>



The Overtime Podcast
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