

"FAMILY LIFE"
Eph. 6:1-4

INTRODUCTION:

1. Question: "Where did we go wrong?"
Answer: "We had kids"!
2. Gene Getz points out that there are few instructions for family life in the Bible.
 - A. This is amazing, considering the importance of family.
 - B. But not amazingly when we see the family as a little church/the church as a big family.
 - C. The community of faith is tremendously important; marker events.
 - . Funerals
 - . Weddings
 - . Baptisms
 - . Graduations
 - . Commitment babies, etc.
3. Give the background of this passage.
 - A. The spirit filled person.
 - B. Mutual submissiveness - 5:21

DISCUSSION:

I. CHILDREN OBEY

- A. A direct charge.
 1. Expected to be read in the assembly.
 2. Rom. 1:30
 3. What if my parents are not Christians?
- B. Reasons for obedience
 1. You are Christians. - "in the Lord" Col. 3:20
 - . See also 4:1, 5:21, 1:4, 4:22-24, 5:8

2. Obedience is right.

- a) It is like Jesus.
- b) It is seen in all societies - even among animals.
- c) Vs. modern permissiveness.

3. Obedience is commanded.

- a) "Obey - Honor" is parallel to "Submit - Respect"
 - . Obey and submit are actions.
 - . Honor and respect are attitudes of the heart.

- b) Exo. 20:12, Duet. 5:16

- . Reflects God's holiness.
 - . A foundational step in obedience to God.

- c) Honor - "in premarital counseling, I am interested in whether the parents approve of the marriage."

4. Obedience brings blessings.

- a) "That it may be well with thee" - Prov. 3:1-6
(Conflict is crippling)
- b) "You will long on the earth" - Peace →
→ Health → Prosperity

II. AND YOU PARENTS (The contrast between Gentile and Christian parents)

A. Fathers

- 1. Includes both mother and father.
- 2. Yet father is the God image for children. (Getz talks about the girl who had been sexually abused by her father who had a difficult time praying and saying, "Our Father".)

B. What are parents to do?

1. Not to provoke anger - Col. 3:21

- a) My family has direct telephone access to me at any time.

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- a) My family has direct telephone access to me at any time.

b) The quotation from the novel "Giant" (Honor -
 "acknowledge their God-given authority,
 and so give them not only our obedience,
 but our love and respect as well" -
 Stott, 240)

c) Ways parents can provoke children:

- . Well-meaning overprotection
- . Comparing children
- . Pushing achievement beyond reason
- . Failing to allow maturity at own rate
- . Physical & verbal abuse
- . Favoritism
- . Discouragement
- . Failing to sacrifice, making children feel unwanted
- . Using love as a tool of reward and punishment.

d) My own three.

- . Forget things change between generations.
- . Too much control.
- . Forget encouragement.

2. Nurture - 5:29

a) This means to feed.

b) There is a balance - Luke 2:52 (As in Jesus)

- . Mother in the early yrs - I Thess. 2:7
- . Dad later on - I Thess. 2:11-12

3. Discipline

a) Heb. 12:6 (Prov. 13:24)

b) Always in love, never in anger. (The time I put cold dust in the battery)

4. Admonish (Means to instruct/encourage)

a) not "preach".

b) The Proverbs are admonishments - "My Son, etc."

c) Using the word - I Tim. 3:13-17

CONCLUSION:

1. The greatest joy in life is to have mature children who are your friends.
2. The song "How Shall The Young Secure Their Hearts" -over-

HOW SHALL THE YOUNG SECURE THEIR HEARTS

How Shall the young secure their hearts, and guard their lives
from sin.

Thy word the choicest rules imparts To keep the conscience
clean.

To keep the conscience clean.

'Tis, like the sun a heavenly light, That guards us all the day;
And through the dangers of the night, A lamp to lead our way,
A lamp to lead our way.

Thy word is everlasting truth; How pure is every page!
That holy book shall guide our youth, And well support our age,
And well support our age.