



Reading Ephesians Together Pt 7: Admonishments for Children & Parents

Ephesians 6:1-4

INSTRUCTIONS FOR CHILDREN

- Paul pulls directly from the Old Testament – Proverbs and Exodus 20:12
- The command for children to obey their parents is the same identical command given by God to his people. Bottom line, we want obedient children and God wants obedient children!
- Honor implies respect, reverence and obedience to parents.
- Scripture supports a “teaching” relationship between parent and child.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PARENTS

- The first century Jew understood parenting from an Old Testament perspective. The best summary on parenting is our text, Ephesians 6:1-4.
- Parents must remember that God’s commands must be taught to and impressed upon their children.
- The goal of biblical parenting is to attempt to make impressions in our children while they are moldable.

A NOTE TO FATHERS

Just as Christ is the head of the Church, the husband is head of his wife. He is also the shepherd of his family and as a man, has the difficult balancing act of wielding both the shepherds crook (to nurture and draw close), and the rod (to discipline and even protect).

CONSIDERATIONS FOR FATHERS

1. Consider whether the behavior you seek to correct is a result of childishness or foolishness.
2. Maintain a Gospel motivation while correcting.
3. Don’t forget to reconcile!
4. Repeat and apply daily what you’ve discussed during family worship.

PERSONAL DEVOTION/FAMILY WORSHIP QUESTIONS FOR THIS WEEK:

1. Parents, God’s command to you is your command to your children. In what ways can you model the love of Christ in your home? How can you demonstrate your obedience to God, so that your children may follow?
2. Children, explain to your parents (in your own words) why obedience is important. In what ways can you honor them?
3. Fathers, think about ways your correction/discipline can become more Christ centered. Ask God to show you times you have provoked your children and consider ways to avoid this.

Catechism

Question: What does the tenth commandment require?

Answer: The tenth commandment requires us to be completely satisfied with our own status in life and to have a proper, loving attitude toward others and their possessions.