

Built By the Lord

By Edwin Crozier
Adapted by Ron Vick

Chapter 14

Children: Obeying with Honor

I. It's Tough Being a Kid:

Remember that Jesus was God in the flesh. Luke 2:52 – How did Jesus grow?

II. Children, Obey Your Parents

A. Ephesians 6:1 – “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

B. Psalm 90:10 – “As for the days of our life, they contain seventy years, or if due to strength, eighty years.”

1. If you meet Moses' expectations you will live about ¼ of your life living in your parent's home.
2. While you are there, you are charged by God to obey them.

C. What is important?

1. Romans 1:30 – Notice that disobeying your parents is right up there with murder, homosexuality, inventing evil, and hating God.
2. God takes obedience to parents very seriously.
3. Deuteronomy 21:18-21.

D. What does it mean to obey your parents?

1. There is a lot of confusion.
2. This does not mean to finally do what they say after a lot of yelling and screaming. ...or after they have counted to 2 ½.
3. Obeying your parents means doing what they say:
4. Part of obedience means accepting discipline, Proverbs 13:1; 15:5
 - a. Being disciplined is for your own good, Hebrews 12:7-11.
 - b. As we said last week when we talked about parents, discipline is NOT beating or abuse. Parents should not discipline when they are angry.
5. Proverbs 13:24; 23:13-14
6. Perhaps your parents are divorced.
 - a. It will be better for you in the long run to stay with and listen to the one who disciplines you.
 - b. Don't be deceived, that parent is the one who really loves you.
7. There is only one qualifier to the command of obedience, “in the Lord.”
 - a. If your father or mother asks you to do something that contradicts what God says in the Bible, then you may disobey your parents.
 - b. Acts 5:29 – “We must obey God rather than men.”

III. Honor Your Father and Mother

A. Ephesians 6:2-3 – 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.”

1. This is the first commandment with promise.
2. This commandment had a specific blessing attached. "That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth." Honoring your parents has an actual impact on your life.
- B. As with obedience, this command is extremely important to God. Under the Old Law, disrespect to parents was punishable by death, Exodus 21:17.
- C. Honoring your parents means: Respect, not interrupting, not being sarcastic, bitter, or using a resentful tone of voice.
- D. Proverbs 30:17 may be shocking.
 1. Granted, this is a proverb, a maxim and is not to be taken absolutely literal.
 2. The point is that God despises a disrespectful attitude.
- E. Respecting their wisdom.
 1. Our parents have lived in the world longer than we have.
 2. Proverbs 1:8-9
 3. Hopefully, your parents will instruct you with patience and understanding. Even if they do not, you need to recognize their wisdom, gain their counsel, and learn from their instruction.
- F. Honoring your parents means learning to make a return to them.
 - 1 Timothy 5:3-8 – "If anyone does not provide for his own... he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever."
- G. If you are one of the unfortunate few to have had parents who did not take care of you, but abused you, consider Luke 6:27-28.
 1. While we are unable to work through this issue here, there are books that are dedicated to helping those who have had an abusive childhood.
 2. Hopefully, at some point, your parents will learn their wrongs and repent and you will be able to work toward healing.

IV. Rejoice During Your Childhood

- A. A word that summarizes your childhood is joy.
- B. Ecclesiastes 11:9-10
- C. God simply asks that you remember Him. Keep Him first.
- D. Matthew 6:33 – "Seek first the kingdom of God..."
- E. Proverbs 23:24-25 – Make sure you are a joy to your parents.
 1. Live in such a way that your parents are proud of you and enjoy you.
 2. Hebrews 13:17 – The principal also applies here to parents.
- F. Continue to increase in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men, just as Jesus did.
- G. Being a kid is not easy. However, if you follow God's advice in your childhood, you will eventually enjoy the peaceful fruit of righteousness.

V. Today's Response

- A. Children, as your parents what will help them enjoy your presence in the home even more. Ask what you can do to be more helpful.
- B. What do you think it means that Jesus increased in stature, wisdom and favor with God and men? What do you need to do to follow Jesus's footsteps in this?