

Ephesians 6:1-4

EMC Wednesday Night Bible Study - 1-20-16

Context:

1. New Life in Christ (1:3-2:10)
2. The New Society (2:11-3:21)
3. New Standards - unity and purity (4:1-5:21)
4. **New Relationships** (5:21-6:24)

Duty of Children (vv. 1-3) - "obey"

The centrality of _____ to the church

3 grounds:

- _____ - "...for this is right..." (v. 1)
 - Part of natural law (cf. Rom. 1)
- _____ - "2 Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth." (vv. 2-3)
 - Revealed law given to _____ (cf. Ex. 20:12; Deut. 5:16)
 - 4/6 or 5/5?
 - The promise - "may go well with you" and "you may live long"
 - Prosperity and long life.
 - OT vs. NT
 - Israel's covenant blessings were tied to the _____
 - For us, the blessings are _____ in Christ (cf. 1:3)
 - Not an individual promise that children will be wealthy and live a long time
 - Rather a general promise of _____ for any community in which children honor their parents
 - Children can contribute to the life and vitality of their worshipping community.
 - Balances Col. 3:20 (obey "in everything")
 - Obedience is expected in everything that is compatible with their _____ loyalty to the Lord
- _____ - obey "in the Lord" (v. 1)
 - Essential _____ between the old and new creation
 - The effects of the fall are being _____

Notes:

Duty of Parents (v. 4)

Parenthood/fatherhood in comparison to the Ephesian culture

- Roman *pater familias* (L. "father of the family" or "owner of the family estate")
 - William Barclay: "A Roman father had absolute power over his family. He would sell them as slaves, he could make them work in his fields even in chains, he could take the law

into his own hands, for the law was in his own hands, and punish as he liked, he could even inflict the death penalty on his child.”

- The Christian father
 - Understood his fatherhood is _____ from the “one God and Father of us all” (3:14-15; 4:6)
 - Earth-____ metaphor vs. heaven-_____ revelation
 - Parents are to care for their family as God the Father cares for his.

Negative - “Do not provoke your children to anger” (v. 4a)

- The net effect of our parenting is that our children’s behavior be in _____ to their identity in Christ
- Parents can misuse their authority, including:
 - Unreasonable demands which make no allowance for the inexperience or immaturity of children
 - Harshness, cruelty on one end, or favoritism and over-indulgence on the other
 - Sarcasm, ridicule, etc.
 - Unkind, arbitrary, or disproportionate discipline
- Children have a _____ and _____ of their own

Positive exhortation - “bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (v. 4b)

- “Bring them up”, lit. “_____”
 - Parents must jealously guard their responsibility
 - Parents need to take time and trouble with their children
- “Discipline”
 - Even by punishment. Emphasis is on correction of the young.
 - In the OT Proverbs (13:24; 22:15; 13:14; 29:15)
 - Avoid extremes. Children need discipline, but it must be balanced, controlled, and loving.
- “Instruct”
 - Refers to verbal education of all kinds
 - Rules out both “_____ - _____” and _____
 - Must proactively teach values of truth and goodness, model these truths, encourage and stimulate them to understand and embody these truths themselves, without coercion.
- There are the Lord’s (“of the Lord”)
 - Behind the parents who teach and discipline stands the Lord himself
 - The ultimate goal of a parent is not to get their kids to submit to their authority, but that they would come to know, love, and obey the Jesus.

Notes: