



Ephesians 5:22-33

WALK IN WISDOM IN THE HOME (PARENTING)

Paul has spoken first about the husband, second about the wife, now he moves along this path to children. The husband is responsible to care for the wife. Both the husband and wife are responsible for the children. ...He speaks to children in an infant voice. He is well aware that if husband and wife are well disposed according to the commands he has laid down, there will be little difficulty in eliciting the cooperation of children. But what if the parents command foolish things? Generally parents do not command foolish things. But if they should, the apostle has a remedy when he says that parents are to be obeyed "in the Lord." They are to be obeyed in whatever way they are not offending God.

—John Chrysostom (AD 347-407)

In the context of Ephesians, the Christian home sits between walking in wisdom and being filled with the Spirit (5:15-21) and gaining victory in spiritual warfare (6:13-20). Thus, the home is vital to our growth, walk, and testimony in the Lord.

Paul is well aware that there are struggles, difficulties, and exceptions to his instruction for the Christian home. But his goal is to paint the picture of a home where husbands-wives and parents-children are filled with the Spirit and living together with joyful, thankful, submissive hearts.

- Fear of the LORD
- Biblical Knowledge
- Life Experience
- Filling of the Spirit
- Submissive Will
- Fervent Prayer
- The Body of Christ

The law-giver of the Romans gave virtually full power to the father over the son [patria potestas], whether he thought proper to imprison him, to scourge him, to put him in chains, and keep him at work in the fields, or to put him to death; and this even though the son were already engaged in public affairs, though he were numbered among the highest magistrates, and though he were celebrated for his zeal for the commonwealth. ...Roman law gave greater power to the father over the son than to the master over his slaves.

—Dionysius of Halicarnassus (60-7 BC)

Obey. Greek, *hupakouo*, "to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority" (Strong).

Obedience involves conscious listening. If you do not really listen, you cannot really obey.

—R. Kent Hughes

The modern version would be, "Parents, obey your children, for this will keep them happy and bring peace to the home." But this is contrary to God's order in nature.

—Warren Wiersbe

YOUNGER CHILDREN—OBEY YOUR PARENTS (6:1)

Children

Obey

Your parents

In the Lord

For this is right

ALL SONS & DAUGHTERS — HONOR YOUR PARENTS (6:2-3)

The Imperative: _____ (cf. 1 Peter 2:17)
Greek, *timao*, “to show regard for, respect, count as valuable, esteem; to acknowledge and show respect for the authority or worth of someone.”

The Reason: _____ (cf. Deut. 5:16)

*Listen, my son, to your father’s instruction
And do not forsake your mother’s teaching.
They are a garland to grace your head
And a chain to adorn your neck.* (Proverbs 1:8-9; cf. 8:6, 32; 19:20, 27)

FATHERS/PARENTS — TRAIN YOUR CHILDREN WELL (6:4)

Do not provoke your children to wrath...

Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord...

“Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!⁵ You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.⁶ And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.⁸ You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.⁹ You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

- _____ the Lord (cf. Deut. 6:4-5)
- _____ the life (cf. Deut. 6:6-9)
- _____ the truth (cf. Deut. 6:7; 2 Tim. 3:14-17)
- _____ toward maturity (cf. Prov. 22:6; Eph. 4:13)
- _____ sin (cf. Prov. 13:24; Heb. 12:5-11)
- _____ them (cf. Num. 6:22-27; Gen. 49:28)
- _____ in God (cf. Luke 15:11-24)

How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is to have a thankless child! —William Shakespeare

Normally children who obey their parents avoid the perils that would shorten their lives.
—Thomas Constable

Our ground is good, and we work it to the utmost, but our chief ambition [as Jews] is for the education of our children.
—Josephus (AD 37-100)

The parent who studies to subdue self-will in his child works together with God in the renewing and saving of a soul.
—Susannah Wesley

Spare the rod and spoil the child—that is true; but beside the rod, keep an apple to give him when he has done well.
—Martin Luther

I know that my father loved me—but he did not seem to wish me to see it. —John Newton

Provoke to anger. Greek, *par-orgizo*, “to irritate, exasperate, rub the wrong way, incite. This is done by a wrong spirit and by wrong methods, i.e., severity, unreasonableness, sternness, harshness, cruel demands, needless restrictions, and selfish insistence upon authority” (Dobson, Feinberg, Hindson).

Training. Greek, *paideia*, “the whole training and education of children” (Thayer).

Admonition. Greek, *noutheteo*, “to put into the mind.” It is seeking not only to influence the mind but also the will and heart.