

Ephesians 6:1-4 Walking in the Spirit – Family

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” 4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

You have probably heard it said before: “He is so heavenly minded – He is no earthly good.”

A) Usually what they mean is he has got his head in the clouds – Or Ultra Spiritual – not relatable

B) So heavenly minded – He is no earthly good!

C) I would suggest that person is not truly being heavenly minded at all.

For the heavenly minded person is going to be one who is living very Impactfully on planet earth.

A) Seen in our study in the book of Ephesians that Paul began in the heavenlies

B) Chapter 1:3 ³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly *places* in Christ. – Ephesians 1:3

C) Key Phrase – In Christ – The source of those blessings – 16 in Christ statements

Chapters 1-3 Our identity in Christ

A) Who we are in Jesus! – Doctrinal/Theological Heavenly truths

B) So the book – begins in the heavenlies but ends on earth

1) Chapter 4:1 **Walk in a manner worthy of your Calling – your identity**

C) Weights and balances – Manner of life would equal your Identity!

1) It would be seen in the practical daily places – OUR RELATIONSHIPS - **HOME – AND WORK**

D) That is how this section on the walk concludes

- 1) Walking in the Spirit – Family – home life
- 2) Walking in the Spirit – Work place

You See I think to be the most earthly good – You have to be Heavenly minded.

A) Those who are heavenly minded- Know their identity in Christ – know their purpose

B) Those are people who are going to be the most earthly good!

To fully understand and Appreciate this passage – Background into the Culture

A) Rome was the Dominate influence in the world and Male Dominance was written into Roman Law.

B) Men were the **absolute heads of their households.**

1) **Masters** they could beat and kill their slaves.

C) A **husband** could discard his wife

1) A **father** could beat or even kill his children with no 2nd thought –

D) And with no recourse whatsoever.

1) It was a Brutal society

Roman mindset toward women said: *We have prostitutes for sexual pleasure. We have female slaves to take care of our bodies and we have wives to bear children and to take care of the house.*

A) So literally under Roman Law a Husband was obligated to provide a roof over his wife’s head and the opportunity for her to bear Children. –

B) He didn’t owe her **DATE NIGHTS – ROMANTIC DINNERS – Love Languages – Marriage conf. – NOTHING LIKE THAT**

1) Provide a Roof and the opportunity to bear kids – meaning he needed to sleep with her sometimes.

C) Women were seen AS incomplete to men. – The common Roman prayer to the gods

“Thank you that I am a Greek and not a Barbarian, that I am a human and not an animal and most of all that I am a MAN & NOT a WOMAN.”

D) It was a Brutal culture where A wife was obligated to submit to her Husband/

- **Children** were expected and obligated under Roman law to obey their parents.
- **Slaves** were obligated to obey their masters!

E) So those weren't radical ideas or concepts in the Roman culture – Wives – Duh

But the gospel Radically Changes Culture:

A) For the wives – The Change was in their motive of submission – now in the Lord – fitting in the Lord

1) The difference was the Motive - In the Lord – whole different motive for Submission

But when Paul says to **HUSBANDS LOVE YOUR WIVES**

A) That was a **RADICAL CHANGE** IN the way they would approach that relationship

B) Or **Fathers don't provoke your Children – that was a Radical new thinking**

1) Because it was the norm to be hard on them

C) And Masters treat your Slaves fair and Just –

1) that was unheard of in their thinking – because the norm was **to be harsh – drive and push.**

D) The Radical new thought for the men – as Husbands, Fathers and Masters was **in the way** they were to treat their wives, Children and Slaves

1) **The Gospel transforms culture**

E) Consider our text

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Colossians 3:20– **It is well pleasing to the Lord**
2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

The Greek word for “Child” is “teknon”

A) And it means anyone regardless of age who is under a parent's care

B) In others word – if you live under the care of your parents, under their roof, eat their food, drink their water- You are “teknon”

C) And God's word to teknon's is that they would obey their parents

1) Okay - What does that mean????

Obey has to do with action, and honor/ attitude

A) This word *obey* is, **“stand under” or to Listen under,”**- that is, to listen with attentiveness and to respond positively to what is heard.

B) **It means to be under another's authority, would apply to a soldier in obeying his orders.**

C) Speaks of **valuing** the words being spoken and then following them!

It is interesting how Children can go through different phases. Most of us probably as kids went through these as well

A) Been called the Five Phases of Childhood:

1st – **Young adolescent** – Parents can do no wrong – they know everything – smartest guy/gal in the world

2nd Phase: **Puberty** – Parents Know a lot but not everything

3rd Phase: **Teen years** – Parents don't know anything –

4th Phase: **Early 20's** – Parents know more than I thought

5th Phase: They become a parent – My parents know everything again

B) It kind of goes full circle: {Key is not to get frustrated especially during phase three- TEEN

The balancing act we parents attempt is convincing our children:

A) **They are loved more than they can imagine.**
But that **the world does not revolve around them.”**

B) **Our culture has created a mindset** – that has led to this narcissistic – approach toward life in our children

1) Everything is about me! –

C) My happiness – My goals – My wants – my desires.

Social media has magnified this greatly – How many FB friends, Instagram followers.

A) How many people **like my Status.**

B) Sometimes – I see a post – I am at In and out eating a DB/DB – **I think who cares –**

1) Then all these people comment on it – I guess a lot of people do

C) Feeds into this mindset – Everything is about me! – My happiness – My goals – My wants – my desires.

What Paul says here: Radically Challenges that mentality – NO EVERYTHING IS ABOUT GOD! – HIS PLEASURE – HIS GLORY

A) That is at the heart of what Paul is saying to Children

B) Children Obey – why? It pleases the Lord – that is what you are to be living for.

C) When I understand my identity in Christ – I also come to understand that like Christ –

1) I exist to bring glory to the Father – Jesus lived

THINK ABOUT JESUS

A) If there was ever a child who had an excuse to disobey his parents It was Jesus

B) Talk about really being smarter – and wiser than his parents – Jesus was God in human flesh

C) But he chose to live – submitted to his parents authority

Luke 2:51-52 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and **was subject** to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.⁵² And Jesus **increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor** with God and men.

When Jesus finally stepped out of his Parents home to begin his public ministry

A) Baptism: MY SON IN WHOM I AM WELL PLEASED

B) What had Jesus done up to that point – Lived for 30 years – subject to his parents

1) Honoring his parents

C) Taking care of mom Mary – until his ½ brothers were able to step in

D) He Comes into the Jordan – God the Father says... my son – well pleased

1) That is really the point: **You obey your parents because it is well pleasing to God**

Young People need to understand – They exist for God’s pleasure – Honor him with their lives

A) **Promise:** 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

B) You will have a full blessed life!

A WORD TO FATHERS

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

A) Do not provoke them to wrath or **discouragement**-

Aa) Speaking of discouragement - **DAD GLASS OF WATER**

B) REALLY A Word to both Parents – **Mom you are not off the hook**

C) See the word – Paul uses for Fathers in the Greek is actually also translated Parents

B) The exact same Greek word is used for parents in Hebrews 11:23 “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden three months by his parents, because they saw *he was* a beautiful child; and they were not afraid of the king’s command.” – Hebrews 11:23

Note: The heart of God in this: Parents don’t provoke your children to wrath lest they become discouraged: Parents See the Big Picture

A) You have a role to play in helping shape your child’s view of God!

B) They are learning how to relate to God as they relate to YOU! - that is a huge responsibility

C) They are to honor and obey you – because they are learning to honor and obey the Lord

1) So properly representing the Lord to OUR kids is of the utmost importance

The Mission of marriage – Genesis 1:28²⁸ Then God blessed them and said, “Be fruitful and multiply. Fill the earth and govern it.

A) God gave the first married couple a Mission – every married couple after them – the same

B) Love God – Love God – Love each other – be fruitful – and take care of what he has put in your hands!

C) A big thing that God has put in our hands is our kids!

D) Love them – Care for them – Mold them
1) “do not provoke them?” – Does That mean – never say no to your kids? – NO

To “provoke” means to needlessly irritate them

A) Key word in that definition is “Needlessly”

B) See as a parents – You are called to lead and to train –

1) Means sometimes – Say No – You can’t –

C) Your kids will get Mad – bummed out

1) That is ok – Needed – you are doing the right thing

D) Paul Says don’t needlessly Provoke them!

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

A) Do you remember the problems it caused in the book of Genesis when Isaac favored Esau – and Rebekah Jacob

B) Think Jacob would have learned – he did the same with Joseph – Bros so resented him

1) David did the same with His kids – Always a mess

C) Your house: When one child is favored or gets special or more attention the others are provoked – irritated – can grow resentful

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 – By forcing them to be something they are not

A) You see it all the time, dad forcing their kids into athletics to live out their own failed dreams through their kids

B) Parents listen - Kids are not blank slates – they come with many ingrained individual gifts from God

1) and part of being a parent is to recognize HOW God has gifted them and WHAT HE has called them to be

Proverbs 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it”

C) This is one of the most well-known and I believe miss understood verses on parenting –

1) Problem: we put the emphases on the word “Way”

Train that child up in the way – like there is one cookie cutter way for every child –
You who have multiple kids know that isn’t true

B) We put the emphases of the word way, usually we are thinking – THE WAY OF THE LORD! –

1) being a Christian – AND that is important

C) But the meaning here is much broader:

1) The Hebrew puts the emphasis on the word “He – the way He should go

In fact Matthew Henry translates this verse –
“Train up a child according to His capabilities” –
Matthew Henry

A) Listen our Job as Parents is to help our kids discover how God has gifted them and blessed them and train and encourage them in that way.

B) When My Son Aaron was born – I of course was thrilled to have a Son

C) And I wanted Aaron to be an Athlete because I was an athlete.

1) My Dad and I bonded through athletics – I wanted me and my Son to bond through Sports.

And I can honestly say that Aaron had some natural talent as an athlete

A) Strong: Limber – Great hand eye coordination – Hitting as a 5 year old

B) You know what he lacked: Interest – He just thought sports was boring

C) God made him with this creative mind.

More creativity in his pinky than I have in my whole body.

A) His mind gravitated in that direction {Build things

B) I had to be willing to say: Ok not an athlete – and Encourage him in that other direction.

C)Willing to enter his world - Try to understand things that seemed goofy to me

D)Now I see him using all of that Creativity to serve Jesus – Teaching kids

1)Building websites for Churches and Missionaries

E)Train them according to their Bent – their capabilities – don't try to force them into being

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 –By forcing them to be something they are not

#3 – By Disciplining them in Anger.

Ever lose your temper? Ever lash out?

A)Ask for forgiveness – { Sorry for the way -

B)**Hurts me more than it hurts you.** – Ridiculous

1)Really true

C)If You enjoy Discipline – You have a problem

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#1 – By playing favorites

#2 – By forcing them to be something they are not

#3 – By Disciplining them in Anger.

#4 By failing to love and affirm them.

A)Can I ask you – do your kids know you love them?

1)Can I ask you another question – how do they know?

B)Studies have been done – Power of affirmation in our kids

1)And the impact of physical affection especially from DADS – HUGE

C)**Just not me – My Dad wasn't so I am not –**

1)Listen – Jesus didn't save you to keep you the way that you are

2)ROMANS 8:29 – MAKE YOU LIKE JESUS

D)Jesus loved kids – little children loved to be in his arms – KIDS LOVED JESUS.

SOME DADS -Always Critical – always pushing

A)My Dad – my one hitter – Why did I strike out – I was so mad

B)If my Dad always did that – I think I would have

C)Parents Love and affirm

5 Ways We Can needlessly provoke our kids

#4 By failing to love and affirm them.

#5 By being a Hypocrite.

A)**Do as I SAY not as I DO:**

B)When I was a Youth Pastor – that was the number one thing that frustrated Kids –

1)Parents not living their faith - **Hypocrites**

C)**Don't talk about Devos** – Model it – Don't talk about going to Church – Model it

D)**Love the body of Christ**– Don't talk about people or issues in the church in front of your kids

E)Kids grow up and don't like the body of Christ – Wonder why?

1)Been listening to you for years tear the Bride apart

Parents – Be on Mission together

A)Walk in the Spirit – allow him to lead you and guide you as it relates to loving/ leading your kids

B)Following Jesus/ serving Jesus is contagious

C)They see that priority in you – the Joy and blessing – they will be more inclined to follow

D)Doesn't mean – not rebel – LEARN HARD WAY

1)but they will be more inclined to come back – see it in your life