Jan. 13, 2018 a.m.

CHILDREN, OBEY YOUR PARENTS

Reading: **Col. 3:17-25**

After some lessons on parenting, let’s think about children obeying their parents.

* Parents teach their children to obey early in life through loving discipline.
* Beckett isn’t reading this on the screen and thinking, “Ok, I need to obey mom and dad.”
* But at some point a child can read, understand, believe and obey these words of God.
* The children in Ephesus and Colosse who first heard these words could understand.
* Children can make the decision to obey their parents.
* Children become accountable for their actions. (they stoned the child, **Dt. 21:18-21**)

**Colossians 3:20**

* *“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”*

**Ephesians 6:1-3**

* What does *in the Lord* mean in **Eph. 6:1**?
* *“In the Lord”* can mean in Christ. (several NT passages, especially in **Romans 16**)
* Are the parents Christians? Is the child a Christian?
* Can *“in the Lord”* mean acknowledging Jesus as the one giving the command?
* In other words, this is something that is according to His will. (see **Acts 14:3**)
* Note **Col. 3:18** – Wives are to submit to their husbands *as is fitting in the Lord*.
* We know a wife is to submit to an unbelieving husband. (**1 Peter 3**)
* Does a child have to obey their parents if their parents are not Christians?
* This happens when the friends of our children are converted to the Lord.
* Are they living at home? Do their commands violate the will of God?

**Jesus was *subject* to His parents.** (**Luke 2:51**) Note the incident in the context.

* He accepted His role in the family, even though He was the Son of God.
* Let that sink it a moment. He obeyed His parents. If He did, shouldn’t you?
* Did He have some responsibilities around the house?

**What should this obedience look like?**

* Is it glad or complaining? What about talking back? Temper tantrums? Whining?
* Disagree respectfully, question respectfully – ‘why this rule?’
* But even when you don’t agree, *obey … in all things*.
* Listen to them – they have experience. (Proverbs)

**Why should you obey?**

* Because it’s right.
* Because it pleases the Lord.
* Because it leads to some good things like being/living well and having a longer life.
* Eat well, good habits, avoid consequences (Proverbs – work, money, sex, friends)
* Because it brings some joy/harmony/peace to the home – *“A wise son makes a glad father, but a foolish son is the grief of his mother.”* (**Pr. 10:1**)
* *“A foolish son is a grief to his father, and bitterness to her who bore him.”* (**Pr 17:25**)

***“Honor your father and mother”*** (**Eph. 6:2**)

* Respect, appreciate, thankful, gratitude
* You think your parents aren’t very smart – they come to you for help with their computers and iphones. Just remember that those same folks taught you how to use a spoon.
* Do you know how much money they have spent on you? Time, energy, heart (emotion)
* Remember birthdays, notes, phone calls, visits – my grandmother told my dad in the past year that “you don’t know how much this means to me” when he visited her.
* Willing to repay (**1 Tim. 5:4**) Look after them in their old age - Jesus did from the cross.
* *“He who mistreats his father and chases away his mother is a son who causes shame and brings reproach.”* (**Pr. 19:26**)

**Some words to those who may not have had the parents many of us had.**

* Maybe your parents lived a worldly life before they become Christians and before they had you. They repented of those sins. Do you have to do the same things? Do you try and justify your sinful behavior on the basis of what they did before they become Christians? If you are wise enough to recognize their sinful behavior, are you not wise enough to choose not to do the same things? Or to try and justify your own sinful behavior?
* If we are trying to reach people for Christ, we will encounter some really sad stories. But we can overcome. We can choose for ourselves to do what is right.
* Love those who didn’t love you – do good to those who didn’t do good to you.
* A woman with a young daughter remarried. Her husband wanted nothing to do with the daughter. Life was very difficult for her. Her mom died. Sometime later, her step-father became very ill. He had no one to care for him. So she took him in. Her returning good for evil broke the old man’s heart who later repented of his sins.
* Don’t blame your parents for who you decide to be or what you decide to do.
* You do not sin because your parents sinned. Their example may have been a hindrance or a help, but it’s still your decision. If your parents were not Christians, does that mean that you are not going to be? If they were immoral, do you have to be immoral?
* You do not have to make the same mistakes your parents did. You can overcome.
* While the kings provide little information in the way of parenting (very little said about mom), if you’re Hezekiah, you do not have to follow the example of your father Ahaz. If you are Josiah, you do not have to be like your father Amon.

(**2 Kings**) You can do *“what (is) right in the sight of the Lord.”*

* If your parents worshiped idols, you can choose to worship God. If your parents didn’t believe that Jesus is the Christ, you can read, consider and examine the evidence to know that Jesus is indeed the Christ, the Son of God. If they believed that babies are born sinners and needed to have water sprinkled on them so that they could be saved, you don’t have to. If they believed some man in Rome is the head of the church, you don’t have to. If they believe you can be saved by faith alone, you can learn better.
* Jesus, in one of His hardest and perhaps most surprising statements makes it clear that He must be first, even before parents. (**Matt. 10:37-39**)
* You will be judged by the Lord for what you believed and what you did.
* You decide to love your heavenly Father – to obey Him.