

Connected

Practical Christianity Part 3 – Spirit-filled Family Life Ephesians 6:1-4

I. Message – Practical Christianity Part 3 – Spirit-filled Family Life

a. The Responsibility of Dependents

- i. “Children, obey your parents
- ii. Who are children?
- iii. The Greek word teknon is used of young people, pupils, followers, descendants, so who is it talking to specifically?
- iv. Our best modern equivalent is “**dependents**”
- v. What are dependents to do?

1. **Obey**

- a. What does this mean?
 - i. Immediately comply with parental authority (direct or delegated)
 - ii. Without push-back or complaint
 - iii. They must be **taught** obedience
- b. Teaching submission to authority is the primary goal of parenting in the first five years
 - i. Children MUST learn to obey their parents
 - ii. And to do so “In the Lord”
- c. Why are you to do this?
 - i. “This is right”
 - ii. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”
 - iii. Not “when THEY (your parents) are right”
 - iv. But, OBEYING is right

2. **Honor**

- a. Ephesians 6:2 “Honour thy father and mother...”
- b. I believe this command is for all offspring, both dependent and independent
 - i. The OT command (one of the 10) was for ALL
 - ii. Exodus 20:12
 - iii. This is the first commandment with promise
 1. Want it to be well with you?
 2. Want to live long on the earth?
 3. No matter who you are, honor parents!

b. The Responsibility of Parents

- i. “4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
- ii. Specific to fathers
 1. This does not exonerate mothers
 2. But fathers are to take the lead in bringing up children
- iii. 3 essentials for balance
 1. Don't provoke them to wrath
 - i. Don't needlessly make them angry
 - ii. Don't discipline because / when you are angry
 - iii. Don't let their lives make God angry
 2. Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord
 - a. Nurture
 - i. Protect, feed, gently help to succeed
 - ii. Sacrificing for their best future
 - iii. Cheering them on to finish well
 - b. Admonition
 - i. Don't just cheer them
 - ii. INSTRUCT them
 - iii. Fathers, it is our job to teach them how to live (fan the image of God in them into a flame)
 - c. So, what do they need to know to live their lives well “in the Lord”
 - i. **Who they are – Gender identity**
 - ii. **How to marry wisely and marry well**
 - iii. **How to be productive – Proverbs 6:6-11**
 - iv. **How to choose a church**

I. Conclusions

- a. Educate dependents to obey – **Proverbs 22:15**
- b. Exemplify honoring by honoring your own parents
- c. Encourage all your disciples (but especially your own offspring) toward the Lord