Parents and Children In these Last Days

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Oluwatobi S. Adewuyi
Coordinator

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Topic:
Parents and Children In these Last Days
Bible Text: Ephesians 6:1-2

Prayer

Father Lord, we are here once again to learn at your feet, Father teach us by Yourself in the name of Jesus. Father Lord at the end of everything let us have the full cause to glorify your name in Jesus Mighty Name we have prayed.

Bible Text

Ephesians 6:1-2 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)

Introduction

I welcome everyone here in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ once more, hope you had a lovely day?

Study

The topic before us tonight might seem simple, but we should try as much as possible to follow it carefully, as the Lord is set to make us see some hidden things which Satan has plotted against the children of God in these last days. Here is Paul writing to the Ephesian church on the need for children, that is, a young person, especially between infancy and puberty, or a person not yet of the age of maturity, should obey their parents in the Lord.

Looking carefully at the instruction the Lord gave to the church through Paul, we will see that children have responsibilities in the family just like parents do. That is to obey their parents while the parents are to direct them in the ways of the Lord and also care for them physically. Obedience is a very important teaching throughout the Bible as the Lord does not joke with it. It is to God first, then others who are to be obeyed. Paul said "parents in the Lord," and this can be in three ways:

1. It can be biological parents who are not Christians.

2. Biological parents who are Christians.

3. Parents in the Lord who are not biological parents.

1. **Biological parents who are not Christians:** Why this set of people are to be obeyed is because they were the ones that served as a vehicle to which you are transported into the world, so they have a say over your life even if they are not saved. Whether you like it or not, they are your parents because no one was able to choose the kind of parents they want before coming into the world. Therefore, the Lord was the One that chose them for you, so you must obey them because they have been placed as an authority over you.

But there is a serious caution when you have parents who are not saved. You are to obey them in all things which are in line with the word of God. When it is not in line with God's will, you are to politely and humbly reject it. They are your parents whom you must obey, but God was the One who placed them there, which means He is greater than them, so you must obey Him above them. Pray for them always to be saved if you have been saved. **Ephesians 6:2 KJV** "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;)"

You are to honor your parents no matter who they are. When you obey them, you're obeying the Lord. Don't be ashamed of them. Some are ashamed of their parents and do not want to be associated with them. This is not a sign of honor to the parents. You should be proud of them no matter what. Even after you are married, the place of honoring them should not be vacant.

2 **Biological parents who are Christians:** If you have such parents, they will guide you properly in the ways of the Lord, and your responsibility is to obey them in all things, for they would not incite you to go against the will of God since they themselves are devoted to His will. **Colossians 3:20 KJV** says, "Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing unto the Lord." These kinds of parents are genuine Christians who follow God's commandments, not hypocritical Christians. When you obey them, you are pleasing the Lord. An example of this is Timothy and his mother, Eunice, as mentioned in **2 Timothy 1:5 KJV**: "When I recall the unfeigned faith that is in you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, I am persuaded that it is also in you."

3. **Parents in the Lord who are not biological parents:** This implies that those who spiritually care for you should be obeyed. They are your parents spiritually, especially those who introduced you to Christ and work tirelessly to ensure your spiritual growth. In this generation, things have fallen out of order, as we are in the last days. Many challenges and

distractions have led to the neglect of the commandment to obey and honour one's parents. The Bible warns of these times in **2 Timothy 3:1-3 KJV:** "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come**.** **[2]** For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, **[3]** Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good."

The scripture predicts that in the last days, perilous times will come, and one sign of these times is disobedience to parents. Observing the world today, it's evident that we are in a time prophesied in the Bible, where obedience to God's commandments is often neglected.

What it means to honor your parents:

1. **It means to put them in high esteem and value them as precious:** You have to hold your parents in high regard and rate them as very valuable. Recognize their great importance. Whatever is important and valued should not be taken lightly. When you value something, you won't allow anyone to diminish it. Just as you wouldn't allow anyone to pluck out your precious eyes because they are valuable to you, you should be proud of your parents wherever you go. They should be cherished, especially in their old age. They must not be abandoned to suffer. Whatever you value, you care for, so don't let people mock your parents or disrespect them when you are present. Let your actions also show how much you value and cherish them.

2. **It means caring for them:** They must be well taken care of, especially in their old age. They cared for you when you were young, and now that you are an adult, it's your turn to care for them. Even if they did not care for you, you are still commanded to care for them because they are your parents. There is no excuse for not taking care of your parents if you are truly a child of God. You should provide for them, buy food for them, give them shelter, and more. Many children leave their parents to suffer because they were not taken care of when they were young. Such neglect will not go unnoticed by the Lord. This is a vengeful spirit, and God says, "Vengeance is Mine." You must try your best to ensure that your parents are comfortable. Also, care for their spiritual well-being. Now that your parents are old, they will not be around for much longer. It is your responsibility to ensure that they are saved before they pass away. Pray for them, preach to them constantly, and make every effort to lead them to Christ so that they do not miss heaven.

3. **By respecting them:** This is something many children lack today—respect for their parents. Respect means having a high or special regard for someone. Some children are so disrespectful to their parents that it is evident to all. Disobedience is a sign of disrespect. Some parents give instructions to their children, but the children refuse to obey. Some children have no manners at all and even talk back to their parents, telling them to shut up. When children place themselves above their parents, thinking they know more, they disrespect them. **Proverbs 6:20 KJV** says, "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother." Some children even insult their parents, abuse them, and cause them harm, which shows a lack of respect and honor, attracting divine punishment.

How Satan achieves disobedience and dishonor in children:

1. **Through the lifestyles of the parents:** Children learn from their parents' actions, not just their words. Children observe and mimic what their parents do. For example, if a child sees a parent taking a bottle of oil and wasting it, the child might do the same, whether in the parent's presence or absence. Children internalize the actions of their parents, believing that if their parents do it, it must be right. This is one reason why many children disrespect and disobey their parents today.

2. **Through demonic cartoons:** It is clear that children are fascinated with cartoons because they can easily relate to the characters. However, some parents buy cartoons for their children without bothering to check the contents of the cartoons. There are cartoons today that can lead children to become rebellious, as many of them are influenced by demonic elements. Innocent children have been influenced by evil spirits through such cartoons, which can make them stubborn and disobedient to their parents. If children suddenly change after watching certain cartoons, it may not be ordinary, and the way out may require deliverance.

3. **Through sexual immorality:** This particularly applies to adolescents who engage in relationships as boyfriend and girlfriend, which can lead them into the sin of fornication. When they fall into such behaviors, it can plant rebellion in their hearts, making them feel more mature and less special about their parents. This can lead to pride and disobedience, as they no longer take parental instructions seriously, going against God's laws. **2 Timothy 2:22 KJV** advises, "Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart."

4. **By making them see the nakedness of their parents:** Satan attempts to make children see the nakedness of their parents because he knows that with this, he can accuse them before the Lord and have a legal ground over them. For example, in the story of Noah, Ham saw the nakedness of his father, and this led to a curse.

Genesis 9:22-25 KJV narrates this event: "And Ham, the father of Canaan, saw the nakedness of his father, and told his two brethren without. **[23]** And Shem and Japheth took a garment, and laid it upon both their shoulders, and went backward, and covered the nakedness of their father; and their faces were backward, and they saw not their father's nakedness. **[24]** And Noah awoke from his wine, and knew what his younger son had done unto him. **[25]** And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren."

Therefore, it is important to be cautious and avoid exposing your nakedness to your children, as seeing their parents' nakedness is a sign of dishonor.

The Lord made a promise that all those who honour their parents will have a good life, and this is a significant reason why many children face difficulties today. They struggle to experience a prosperous life in various aspects. It's noticeable that people no longer live as long as they did in the days of the Bible. The reason behind this is often related to the neglect of honoring parents. If the promise of living a long and prosperous life is attached to honoring one's parents, then disobeying them can have the opposite effect. Children must be taught not to dishonor their parents. **Exodus 20:12 KJV** emphasizes the need to honor both father and mother: "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." The Lord continually emphasizes the importance of children honoring their parents. Children who have dishonored their parents should seek their forgiveness so that they can pray for them, and any curses working against them can be lifted. The role of parents in the lives of children is not something to be taken lightly. **Deuteronomy 5:16 KJV** states, "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." So, for your days to be prolonged and for things to go well, it's essential to reconcile with your parents quickly. If your parents are no longer alive, engage in serious prayers to break any existing curses because curses can pass from generation to generation if not broken.

The three types of parents mentioned are to be honored and respected, including those who serve as parents (not biological) and are responsible for one's physical well-being, regardless of how they treat you, you are commanded to obey and respect them and give them full honor.

Ways to prevent children from being disrespectful and dishonoring:

1. **Establish an effective family altar:** Do not rush through family devotions due to work or other commitments. Skipping family devotions sends the wrong message to your children, implying that there are reasons to neglect fellowship with God.

2. **Teach your children:** It's crucial to intentionally teach them. Teach them the Bible, its morals, and the consequences of not following God's teachings. Do not assume that they will naturally learn how to treat people well as they grow. Teach them to greet their elders, say thank you when helped, say sorry when they are wrong, and say please when they need assistance. **Proverbs 22:6 KJV** advises, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Children require guidance in their actions, as they cannot do things correctly on their own.

3. **Pray for them regularly:** Especially in the morning when you wake up, pray for your children. You can do vigils mentioning their names one by one and pray for them, laying hands on them as they sleep. God honors such prayers. Pray with your children and teach them how to pray. Encourage them to repeat after you during prayer, helping them understand the importance of prayer. Do not assume they are too young to pray. If you sense any unusual behavior in them, consider conducting deliverance prayers. If you are not a deliverance minister, invite one to your home for family deliverance. Children might encounter demonic spirits at school or in other places that could lead to rebellion. Immediate deliverance can cast out these spirits.

4. **Tell them about Christ:** Explain to them what salvation means in a way they can easily understand. Make them aware of why being saved is crucial, and lead them to Christ. This will instill the fear of God in their hearts, and they will be less likely to follow worldly trends.

5. **Lead by example:** Practice what you want your children to do and be what you want them to be. If you instruct them not to lie, you should not lie to them or in their presence. They are watching you and will emulate your behavior. When welcoming visitors into your home, show them respect, as

your children will learn from your actions. Do not speak ill of anyone in front of your children, as they may imitate such behavior. Let your children observe you helping others, especially the poor and the fatherless. Show them that you do not consider yourself superior to anyone, and teach them that everyone deserves respect, regardless of their age or social status. When they see you practicing what you preach, they are more likely to follow your example.

6. **Discuss spiritual matters regularly in your home:** Avoid listening to ungodly music and songs, stop watching secular movies too. Instead, talk about the importance of serving God and obeying His Word. Engage in discussions about the Bible and encourage an interest in God's Word. Avoid discussions about politics and sports that hold little value in your children's lives.

Deuteronomy 11:18-21 AMP underscores the need to impress God's precepts upon your children: "Therefore, you shall impress these words of mine on your heart and on your soul, and tie them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as bands (frontals, frontlets) on your forehead. You shall teach them [diligently] to your children [impressing God’s precepts on their minds and penetrating their hearts with His truths], speaking of them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road and when you lie down and when you rise up. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates, so that your days and the days of your children may be multiplied in the land which the Lord swore to your fathers to give them, as long as the heavens are above the earth."

By discussing spiritual matters in your home, your children will learn to obey God, fear Him, and in turn obey and honor you.

Invitation

If you know that you are still living in sin and you are ready to repent and begin to live your life in strict obedience to God so that you can overcome every sin in your life to make heaven, please place your right hand on your chest and say this prayer with your mouth.

Say,

"Lord Jesus, I accept You as my personal Lord and Savior. I believe that You died for me and took away my sins so that I will not face the penalty of them. I surrender my life to You today, and I make a decision to obey and follow You. Come into my life now and accept me as Your child. Thank You for saving me, in Jesus Christ's name I pray, Amen."

Congratulations, now you are saved. If you prayed this short prayer, please WhatsApp +2347067511039 and let me know that you have just been saved. I want to have a word with you. God bless you!

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