

WORD

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:1-3

WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

We live in a world where rebellion is very much celebrated, like it is the right thing to do to express individuality or freedom. Though this is our natural tendency as fallen beings (Proverbs 22:15), the Bible commands us to do otherwise and take the higher way which is to obey. Why do we obey and what benefits do we get from it?

- **Obeying our parents in the Lord is right.**

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

Ephesians 6:1

Our parents are God-given and God-appointed authorities in our lives. Our obedience to them is out of our reverence to God and His authority. Ultimately, all of us, including parents, answer to God. Being first followers of God than any other authority, what would we do in case our parents lead us to commit sin?

- **Obeying our parents in the Lord is pleasing to God.**

Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

Colossians 3:20

Oftentimes, we obey our parents to earn their favor or to avoid consequences if we do otherwise. While our parents will naturally be pleased when we obey them, the Bible tells us that God is pleased as well. This is not to say that we can earn God’s favor by doing something for Him. Rather, obeying our parents simply brings pleasure to God. Why is this so?

- **Obeying our parents in the Lord is beneficial.**

²“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Ephesians 6:2,3

Our tendency to be selfish would often ask, “If I obey my parents, what do I get in return?” Truth is, this commandment of God is the first to come with a promise (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16)! In the end, obeying our parents is for our own good. In what ways have you seen obeying your parents beneficial for your life?

SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- What happens when a child chooses to obey his or her parents?
- What are the things that a child could do to honor their parents?
- How do you think does obeying our parents please God?

NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- What areas in your life do you think are influenced by self-centeredness in your obedience to your parents? How do you plan to deal with these?
- How can you best demonstrate giving honor to your parents? What practical steps can you take towards doing this?
- Give three ways you can honor your parents this week.