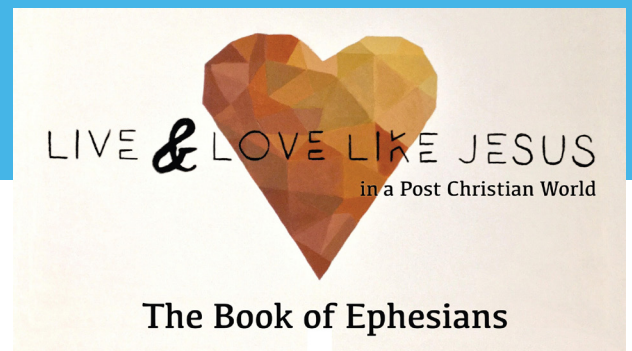


Discussion Questions

April 30, 2023

Ephesians 6:1-4 Spirit Filled Children & Parents



What is something you thought was normal in your family of origin that you've come to realize is not the norm for everyone?

1. Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Summarize this passage in your own words.

2. Discuss what it looks like to actually honor our parents today in your stage of life.

3. Re-read the list James gave of ways we provoke our children.

- Unrealistic / Unreasonable demands
- Fault finding
- Lacking Empathy / Grace
- Teasing / Insulting / Sarcasm
- Inconsistency / Hypocrisy
- Playing favorites / Comparing children
- Neglecting
- Withholding compliments / Encouragement
- Pride / Stubbornness / Not asking for forgiveness

Share which of these you are prone to as a parent and how you can grow in this.

4. Read Ephesians 5:21

Discuss what this can look like for parents towards their children.

5. Read Deuteronomy 6:5-9

What was commanded of the Israelite parents back then?

What does this look like for parents today?

6. What does it look like today to realistically Train & instruct our children in the ways of Jesus?

How can we practically, increasingly point them to following the way of Jesus at our stage of life?

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT)

Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. "Honor your father and mother." This is the first commandment with a promise: If you honor your father and mother, "things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth." Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-3 (CSB)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, because this is right. Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with a promise, so that it may go well with you and that you may have a long life in the land.

Romans 1:28-30 (NIV)

So God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done. 29 They have become filled with every kind of wickedness, evil, greed and depravity. They are full of envy, murder, strife, deceit and malice. They are gossips, 30 slanderers, God-haters, insolent, arrogant and boastful; they invent ways of doing evil; they disobey their parents.

Mark Twain

When I was a boy of 14, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be 21, I was astonished at how much he had learned in 7 years.

Luke 2:51-52 (NIV)

Then he [Jesus] went down to Nazareth with them and was obedient to them... And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and man.

Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Book of Sirach 30:1-6

A father who loves his son will whip him often, so that he can be proud of him later. If a son is disciplined, he will be of some use, and his father can boast of him to his friends. Anyone who gives good guidance to his son can not only take pride in him among his friends, but he can make his enemies jealous. While the father is alive, the sight of his son makes him happy, and when he dies, he has no regrets... He has left someone to take vengeance on his enemies and to return the favors he owes his friends.

Book of Sirach 30:9-13

If you pamper your child and play with him, he will be a disappointment and a source of grief. Laugh with him now, and one day you will have to cry over him, grinding your teeth in regret. Don't give him freedom while he is young, and don't overlook what he does wrong. Beat him while he is still a child, and make him respect your authority. If you don't, he will be stubborn and disobedient and

cause you nothing but sorrow. So discipline your son and give him work to do, or else he will be an embarrassment to you.

Ephesians 6:4a

..do not provoke your children to anger..

Provoking Children to Anger

- Unrealistic/Unreasonable demands
- Fault finding
- Lacking Empathy/Grace
- Teasing/Insulting/Sarcasm
- Inconsistency/Hypocrisy
- Playing favorites/comparing children
- Neglecting
- Withholding compliments/Encouragement
- Pride/Stubbornness/Not asking for forgiveness

Ephesians 6:4b

Bring them [your children] up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Deuteronomy 6:5-9 (NLT)

You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your strength. And you must commit yourselves wholeheartedly to these commands that I am giving you today. Repeat them again and again to your children. Talk about them when you are at home and when you are on the road, when you are going to bed and when you are getting up. Tie them to your hands and wear them on your forehead as reminders. Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

Our Children Must See Us:

- Repenting as a normal part of life
- Sharing our faith with those who don't know Jesus
- Caring for neighbors
- Using our home as a place of blessing others, sharing meals, etc
- Sacrificing for the poor and hurting
- Being financially generous
- Consistently on our knees in prayer & in the Word as a lifestyle

Andrew Murray

The secret of home rule is self rule. First being ourselves what we want our children to be.

Matthew 28:19-20 (NLT)

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.

Paul Tripp - Parenting: 14 Gospel Principles

Your hope as a parent is not found in your power, your wisdom, your character, your experience, or your success, but in this one thing alone: the presence of your Lord. The Creator, Savior, Almighty, Sovereign King is with you. Let your heart rest. You are not in this parenting drama alone. Your potential is greater than the size of your weaknesses, because the One who is without weakness is with you, and he does his best work through those who admit that they are weak but in weakness still heed his call.