

THE CHILD'S PLACE IN THE HOME

Psalms 127:3-5

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Many see children as hindrance, God calls them a blessing
- B. Children bless a family and increase parents purpose to live. They challenge parents and should be precious to them
- C. No pleasure in life can equal joy we have in our children. They are a perpetual interest to parents, a delight to them
- D. Children also have responsibility in the home: obey - honor Eph 6:1,2
- E. Listen up children and parents. What is the child's place and responsibility in the home?

DISCUSSION:

I. CHILDREN MUST OBEY PARENTS Eph 6:1

- A. Child's place in the home is one of subjection
 - 1. "In the Lord" - according to the Lord's will
 - 2. Children obey parents in all things Col 3:20 not just when agree but also obey when disagree
- B. Why should you obey? "for this is right"
 - 1. Parents said so - sometimes best answer
 - 2. Parent and child must communicate, each one explain
 - 3. Yet the final decision is the parents and child must yield to decision because he is the child
- C. Child's attitude toward parents changes over the years
 - 1. A 4 year old will defend his parents against all odds. Even the worst parents can do no wrong in his eyes
 - 2. By teens he wonders how such old fashioned, ignorant parents could have such a brilliant child.
 - 3. After a while he begins to ask, how would my parents do this? He wonders how parents suddenly got smart
 - 4. When older and has faced experiences he didn't see coming and is confused and discouraged by his own problems with children he will ask his parents, how did you do it? He will stand amazed at his parents wisdom and wonder if he will ever know as much. Prov 13:1
- D. Parents "teach" - "children learn and obey"

II. CHILDREN HONOR (value) THEIR PARENTS Eph 6:2

- A. Honor = to prize, i.e. fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere:--honour, value. (Strongs)
- B. Not necessarily with money, but with gratitude
 - 1. Thank your parents for what they do
 - 2. One source said over \$170,000.00 from 0-18 yrs
 - 3. Thank you and obedience will repay every penny
- C. Older children, your parents enjoy gratitude even after you have left home.
- D. Sometimes honoring parents involves money 1Tim 5:4

- 1. "Requite" means to repay work parents did
- 2. "Show Piety" used to show obligation to express in a practical way "dutifulness" towards one's own family

III. CHILDREN ARE TO BE A BLESSING TO PARENTS

- A. "Arrows must be carefully formed and shaped so that they can be shot straight from the bow. Children must also be molded and shaped into the form that can prove a blessing to the parents. This shaping of a personality is one of the greatest responsibilities a parent has, and the character of a child is determined by the success one makes. The arrow will not hit its target if it is bent or warped. Neither will the child reach that goal which will be the end of his parents' dreams for him if he is not straight and true. The arrow cannot hit its mark without the bowman's taking careful aim. The child cannot reach the mark set for him without the careful planning and aim of the parent." ("Good Homes in a Wicked World", pg 67-68 Irven Lee.)
- B. The analogy in this quote tells it all; the future for our children is determined by their parents. Without guidance from godly parents children will almost always surely FAIL
- C. God gave this responsibility to Fathers & Mothers Eph 6:4; 1Tim 5:14; Titus 2:4
- D. If molded carefully children will bless us more than we can imagine. However, child has responsibility in relationship.
- E. Children can become a blessing even though they were not "brought up right" Hezekiah is an example, his father Ahaz was a very wicked king; his son Manasseh was even more wicked than was Ahaz 2Ki 18:1-7; 16:2,3; 21:1-7,10-12

CONCLUSION:

- A. Children you are our most precious possessions. Nothing in this world can compare. You bring joy, happiness, and peace that can be found nowhere else, if you are godly.
- B. Children, parents are your best defense against this world. There is no one more concerned for your well being than your parents. No matter how much you may disagree, they know what is best for you. Obey them. Follow wherever they lead. Your life will be rewarded.
- D. We must remember that no matter who is over us we must serve the Lord first. Paul said "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right." Eph 6:1 Service to God is first. We must follow the example left by the apostles in Acts 5:29 "We ought to obey God rather than men."
- E. One that has reached accountability is responsible for his own actions. He will stand in judgment for how he lived his life. Parents cannot be blamed if you are accountable for your self. Are you serving God?

(Adapted from a sermon by Daniel Lee Henderson)