Courage to Lead Your Family September 2, 2018

*Ephesians 6:1-4 Series: Courage to Lead*

*“The pressure to do well is up.*

*The demand to do good is down, way down.”*

*- Judith Warner, “Kids Gone Wild”*

Intro: Have you fallen off the other side of the horse?

1. Believe in the blessing of a child’s obedience. (vv. 1-3)
2. Honour and obedience are right and good.

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

v. 2 *Honor your father and mother …*

1. Honour and obedience are “in the Lord.”

v. 1 *obey your parents in the Lord*

1. Honour and obedience are rewarded.

vv. 2 - 3 *… (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”*

* God appeals to children (and parents) with the promised blessing of obedience. What are some of the things that we’re tempted to see as having greater value than obedience?
* What are some of the reasons that training in obedience has become unpopular today?
* Young children are commanded to obey their parents but everyone is called to honour their parents. What’s the difference between honouring and obeying?

1. Pursue your child’s blessing through instruction. (v. 4 b)
2. Expectations without instructions lead to frustration.

v. 4 *do not provoke your children to anger*

1. Fathers take the lead.

v. 4 *Fathers, do not provoke … but bring them up*

1. Instruct your children in the Lord.

v. 4 *but bring them up in the … instruction of the Lord*

Deuteronomy 6:6-7 *And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.*

* Why are expectations without instructions so frustrating?
* What are some other ways that parents can needlessly make their children angry?
* What message does it send to a child if a father leaves all the Bible instruction to his wife?
* What message does it send to a child if parents leave all the Bible instruction to the church?
* What do you learn about how to instruct your children from Deuteronomy 6:6-7?

1. Pursue your child’s blessing through discipline. (v. 4 a)
2. Healthy discipline diffuses a child’s anger.

v. 4 *Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline … of the Lord.*

1. Discipline involves short term pain with long term benefits.

Hebrews 12:11 *For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.*

1. Healthy discipline is an expression of a parent’s love.

Hebrews 12:6 *For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.*

Proverbs 13:24 *Whoever spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.*

Proverbs 19:18 *Discipline your son, for there is hope; do not set your heart on putting him to death.*

* How can no discipline or inconsistent discipline anger a child?
* What are some other ways that unhealthy discipline can anger a child?
* How does painful discipline lead to righteous fruit in a child?
* Why is discipline an expression of parental love?

Study ahead: Next week, we’ll look at Philippians 1:1-11.

Notes