

Series: Ephesians
Title: Children, Obey Your Parents
Text: Ephesians 6: 1-3
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Ephesians 6: 1: Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. 2: Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) 3: That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.

We will focus our attention on two sons this morning. One was disobedient; the other obedient. I am speaking of Adam and of Christ.

THE DISOBEDIENT SON

First, Adam was the disobedient son. Adam was the first son of God the Father. God was Adam's Father; Adam his son. God the Father gave his son one command, "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die." (Gen 2: 16-17)

Adam was to obey God his Father. It was right for Adam to do so. By his obedience Adam would honor God his Father. Had Adam obeyed and honored God, it would have been "well" with Adam. And he would have "lived long on the earth."

Instead, Adam disobeyed God. And because he dishonored his Father, it was not well with Adam; spiritually, he did not live long on the earth but died. This law was given later to show us the offense but it is why Adam must die, "For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood *shall be* upon him." (Lev 20: 9) Since Adam was a representative head, he passed on his sin and death to us, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." (Rom 5: 12)

So the first disobedience to a Father resulted in sin and death entering the world. You and I were conceived in sin. We came forth from the womb disobeying and dishonoring God. We are all disobedient sons and daughters of God by nature. We can by no means come to God the Father by our obedience to his law.

THE OBEDIENT SON

There is another who is the obedient Son. Of Christ Jesus, God the Father said, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased; hear ye him." (Mt 17:5)

God the Father sent his Son into this earth to do his will: to uphold his law—including the one set before us—to magnify and make it honorable by his perfect obedience; to declare God just by bearing the full penalty of the law in place of all God's spiritual sons and daughters until justice was satisfied; to declare God the Justifier because God was in his Son justifying his children from our sins; to save all God's chosen children from our sins of disobeying and dishonoring God.

The Son of God, who is equal with the Father, took flesh like his brethren and took the place of a servant before his Father, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me." (Joh 5:30) The law is the will of God who sent Christ. One rule of law said, "Honour thy father and thy mother." Christ honored God his Father. Christ honored Joseph, though he was not his true father; Christ honored his mother. He did so in perfection! Parents, have you ever thought what it would have been like to have the Lord Jesus as your son? He was a perfect child.

Yet, his people had not honored God. We broke that law. And the law said, “For every one that curseth his father or his mother shall be surely put to death: he hath cursed his father or his mother; his blood *shall be* upon him.” So Christ honored God his Father by also bearing the sin of his people, by being made a curse for us. And he bore the stripes due unto his people.

Doing so, he highly exalted God the Father; coing so, he obeyed and honored God the Father to the highest honor. And God’s law also said to the child who is obedient, “that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” (Ex 20: 12) So God the Father was so well-pleased with his Son that God made his days to be long in the land which God gave him.

Philippians 2: 9: Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: 10: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of *things* in heaven, and *things* in earth, and *things* under the earth; 11: And *that* every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ *is* Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12: Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Psalms 2: 7: I will declare the decree: the LORD hath said unto me, Thou *art* my Son; this day have I begotten thee. 8: Ask of me, and I shall give *thee* the heathen *for* thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth *for* thy possession.

There is one Son that obeyed God the Father with perfect obedience. Only one Son honored God the Father with perfect honor. The obedient Son is the Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

But what about you and I? All God’s elect must obey God the Father in perfection or we cannot enter his holy and righteous presence. But we came forth from our mother’s womb speaking lies. How can we possibly obey and honor God the Father?

HONOR THE SON, HONOR THY FATHER

The law says, “Honor thy father.” This is the good news of the gospel. The Son of God honored God the Father for every chosen child of God. Now, Christ declares to you and me, that the way we honor God the Father is by honoring his Son by believing on the Lord Jesus Christ.

John 5: 22: For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: 23: That all *men* should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honoureth not the Son honoureth not the Father which hath sent him. 24: Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

The obedient Son fulfilled the law. The obedient Son worked the works of God the Father. Now, the obedient Son says to those he creates anew by his grace, “This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.” (Jn 6: 29) You and I can never come to God by our obedience to the law. We have sinned and come short of the glory of God. But through faith in Christ we establish the whole law because Christ obeyed the Father and honored him perfectly for his people.

This is God’s promise to all who honor the Father by honoring his Son, by resting in Christ alone through faith, “That it may be well with thee”—how well? “Ye are complete in him.” God says, “That thou mayest live long on the earth.” What earth? We shall live in the new heavens and the new earth. How long shall I live there? For all eternity, “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.” He said in Exodus, this is the land “which the LORD thy God giveth thee”—salvation is a free gift. There was nothing good in us—but God chose his people freely without a cause in us. Righteousness is free because Christ Jesus paid all the debts for

his people. Through that very faith which God gives us to rest in Christ, we are freely justified. Eternal life is the gift of God to the believer because it is God honoring his obedient Son Christ Jesus.

THE EXHORTATION

Now, let's hear the exhortation of grace given to every true believer, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right." (Eph 6: 1) Constrained by Christ's love for us, children of God, obey your parents in the Lord. A born-again child of God is the only one who can obey their parents in the Lord. Our gracious God says, "This is right." Whatever he says is right. Happiness is doing what he says is right.

And constrained by the love of Christ who fulfilled the law for us and is the end of the law, our perfect righteousness, he says, "Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." (Eph 6: 2-3) When God our Father makes his child to be born-again, he makes us to see that our heavenly Father's love is from everlasting to everlasting. He has given us everlasting life.

Then if we have father or mother who does not know this good news—we want to honor God our Father and honor our parents by telling them this good news of the obedient Son, Christ Jesus; by honoring God by praying God will make it effectual in their hearts and waiting on God to do so if he is pleased. And by obeying our parents in the Lord and honoring them, even as we would unto the Lord.

And if we have father or mother who taught us this good news, then how God's grace will make you to want to obey and honor them.

One last word, if you are a child who is yet in unbelief, obey and honor your parents by listening as they teach you the gospel, by coming to hear the word preached and in everything they command so long as it is in the Lord. Your parents may be the earthen vessels that God uses to draw you to Christ and save you from your sins. I pray it be so!

Amen!