

# The Way it Works

Ephesians 6:1-4

## Preface

Is there anyone here who still believes that the world has the answers for raising children? Is there anyone left who really thinks society knows best about raising our children?

I won't bore you with all sorts of statistics about crime and drug abuse among our children in this day and time. If there is any doubt, I refer you to any news program.

We live in a day when our country is starving for answers to the crisis's facing the children and families of America.

## Scripture – Read

<sup>1</sup>Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise— <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

<sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV

## Introduction

Illus: Show different owner's manuals I have. Point out how the simplest of equipment comes with an owner's manuals. For some of the items, one would have to be stupid to need a manual.

The irony is that the most complicated thing we ever brought home did not come with an owner's manual. This one thing we brought home had no manual, yet is the very thing that has been the most complicated, challenging and life changing. Of course I am speaking of my children.

Our children were not made by man. They were not fabricated in a factory or welding shop. **Our children are miraculously created in the womb by almighty God.** They are not part of man's engineering but a result of God's creation.

There is already an owner's manual for creation. It is the Holy Word of God. The Bible offers far more instruction than can be covered in a full year of sermons, let alone one sermon message.

However, we will look the two basic and underlying principals the Bible teaches about parent – child relationships.

## Content

### 1. Children are to Honor and Obey Parents

The text we read is clear and offers no exceptions. Children should obey and honor their parents in the Lord for this is right.

a. Children should obey their parents out of appreciation.

The word translated “honor” means to fix a high value on something; to consider it a prized possession. It also carries the connotation of heavy in wealth.

Children should obey their parents because they value them dearly and appreciate all they do for them.

The older you become, the more you will value your parents. And when they are gone, you will long for their presence.

b. Children should obey and honor parents out of love and obedience to God.

<sup>20</sup>Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20 NIV

There are some things we do because God expects this of us and we want to please Him. We please God when we obey our parents.

Conversely, we displease God when we do not obey and honor our parents. I have seen children tell parent to shut-up. I have seen children curse their parents. Rest assured this displeases God. Regardless of our age, we should honor our parents.

c. Children should obey their parents out of respect for themselves.

There is a strong principal here that we must understand. Obedience and respect fosters self-discipline which in turn brings stability and longevity in one's life.

Too few young people today show respect. Few young people today even say “yes sir” or “yes mam”. It is tragic that children are not taught to show respect. This same lack of respect will come back to haunt them later in life as they attempt to be leaders themselves in the work force and in their own families.

Why do we question God's word? It is simple, children are to obey and honor their parents.

## 2. Parents Are to Honor and Obey God

Parents, before you start cheering my words, consider this. Are you honoring God with your life? Are you being obedient to God's word? Do your children see you honoring God?

<sup>4</sup> *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:1-4 NIV*

This verse reminds us that we are to not exasperate our children. In other words, we are not to discourage or anger them with petty rules and constant nagging. Instead, we are to strategically train them and instruct them in the way of the Lord.

To "bring them up" means to provide physical and spiritual guidance for our children.

a. Parents are to value their children

<sup>3</sup> *Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him.*

<sup>4</sup> *Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth.* <sup>5</sup> *Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them." Psalm 127:3-5*

As parents, we must value our children and recognize them as a gift from God. We must never take them for granted but rather thank God for them routinely.

b. Parents are to discipline their children.

God's word is clear that we are to exercise discipline over our children in order to train them. Proverbs 29:15 tells us that the rod of correction imparts wisdom but **a child left to himself brings disgrace.**

<sup>24</sup> *He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is careful to discipline him. Prov. 13:24 NIV*

Parents must expect and deserve the honor and respect of their children. We live in a society where too many parents today do not expect their children to obey and honor them. Parents are lazy and would rather let their children run the household than put forth the effort to discipline.

Illus: Our caller ID said FBI. **Yes we were strict but we fought hard to keep them out of trouble and raise them in the Lord.**

Whatever your excuse, it doesn't float. As parents we are to **discipline our children out of love. This is a responsibility we must not neglect.** Beware of anti-spanking movement.

c. Parents are to teach their children God's word

A child is responsible for honoring his parents by listening to their instruction. But the quality of instruction is the responsibility of the parents. A parent must give instruction that is in accordance to God's word and will.

<sup>6</sup> *Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." Proverbs 22:6 (NIV)*

<sup>6</sup> *These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.* <sup>7</sup> *Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." Deuteronomy 6:4-7(NIV)*

Do you train your children in the way of the Lord and teach them God's word? **Most importantly, is God's word on your heart?**

As Parents, we are entrusted with the responsibility of instructing our children in God's word. To do so, it must be on our heart.

d. Parents must be an example to their children

You can dedicate your baby every Sunday until he /she is eighteen but **if you do not dedicate yourself to the Lord, it means nothing.**

Parents themselves must be dedicated to the Lord. Your life and your actions are the ultimate example through which your children needs to see Christ.

<sup>6</sup> *The house of the righteous contains great treasure, Prov. 15:6*

Is Christ the center of your home? Do your children know about your love for Christ?

Do your children know what the family will be doing on Sunday morning?

Illus: Thought about it this morning 6 or 7 trucks of men building a brick entrance fence. Is that really so important today?

**Make no mistake about it, you grow what you plant!**

Parents are to honor and obey God.

## **Conclusion**

In closing, I want to ask you one final question.

Have you ever told your children about your salvation experience?

Have you ever told your children about what Christ dying on the cross means to you personally?

If the answer to that question is no, why not?