

Parents and Children

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 6:1-4.
- B. Something has gone wrong in the basic relationship between parents and children.
- C. The problem is permissiveness.
- D. The solution to conflict between various groups is subjection to one another out of reverence to Christ. (Ephesians 5)

II. Children must obey their parents.

- A. This means to stand under another's authority.
- B. This means to follow orders. Children must do what their parents say.
- C. The reason to obey parents is that it is right.
- D. The attitude of obedience is important as well.
 - 1. A child is to obey cheerfully before the Lord.
 - 2. Glad obedience helps a person, but sullen obedience injures a person.
 - 3. Resentment can cause serious physical disturbances.
 - 4. Rebellion slams the door to learning.

III. Parents are supposed to subject themselves to their children.

- A. Children are not to be provoked in anger to rebellion.
- B. Discipline and instruction are to be employed, not harshness.
 - 1. Parents are to help their children make decisions.
 - 2. This gives children safety and security.
 - 3. As the child grows older, physical discipline is to be replaced by wisdom and understanding to a greater degree.
- C. Surround children with a fortress of prayer and keep communication clear.

Application questions:

1. Why is the attitude so important for a child's obedience?

2. Why must a parent give a child more freedom as they grow?

3. How could you effectively communicate the importance of obedience to a child?
