



Sunday, May 6, 2018

Pastor Don Denyes

## **Intro to Ephesians 6:1-4**

The gospel has implications for every area of life. Over the past couple of weeks, we have seen the immense implications the gospel has in marriage. The commands that Paul issues in chapters 4-6 of Ephesians flow directly from the glorious realities of the gospel. So, it makes perfect sense that the gospel would have implications for the way we parent as well.

One aspect of the gospel that has direct implications for the way we parent is obedience. Often times, parents will focus on getting their kids to behave a certain way so that their lives will be easier. But the gospel teaches us that behavior cannot be changed apart from a changed heart. The gospel aims at getting us to understand our need to obey God. While obedience certainly has behavioral implications, it is fundamentally a relationship dynamic. It is a heart issue. So, when Paul exhorts the children to obey their parents, he is admonishing them to relate to their parents in a way that resembles how we all ought to relate to God.

He follows this up with an important exhortation to parents to not provoke their children. As children are supposed to relate to their parents as subjects the way we are all subject to God, so also parents are to imitate God in how they treat their children. Hence, Paul insists that parents lovingly discipline their kids and train them in the instruction of the Lord, not to dominate them, but to enable them to truly flourish in life.

## **Context**

This section comes on the heels of what are commonly referred to as the “household codes” (Eph. 5:22-6:9; Col. 3:18-4:1). These “codes” are largely commands that flow from the indicative realities stated in earlier chapters.

**Read and Reflect** *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“Family Life”

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Parents and Children

- Command... obey
  
- Motive... it is right and has a promise
  
- Caution... but fathers, don't provoke

## Discuss

- 1) What was your relationship with your parents like when you were growing up?
  
- 2) As Pastor Don said, if you are a parent, you are God's representative to your kids. What aspects of God's character have you represented well? What aspects do you need to grow in the most?
  
- 3) If you have kids, what has been the most difficult part of discipling them?
  
- 4) If you don't have kids, how can you contribute to discipling the children in the church?
  
- 5) How can we pray specifically for one another's kids? (If no one in the group has kids, how can you pray for kids you know in the church?)