

Ephesians

Harmony in the Home, Part III

Ephesians 6:1-3

October 12th, 2025

I. Text — Ephesians 6:1-3

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

II. For Our Little Saints

God tells you, kids, that you should obey your parents. This means basically three things:

1. Obey right _____.
2. Obey _____ the way.
3. Obey _____.

This is how Jesus obeyed His Father. God the Father Himself asked His Son, Jesus Christ, to go and save you. That meant a lot of really hard work. It meant He had to become a little baby; He grew up, obeyed His mother, Mary, and His earthly dad, Joseph. He performed a bunch of miracles. He did all of that, and then He did the hardest work of all: He died on a cross. Why did He do all of that? Because He loves you. He didn't want you to have to suffer all of that. He did all of that so that you could live forever with Him, so that your sins and your disobedience could be forgiven and forgotten, and so that you would get to live as His friends. Jesus' Father commanded Him to do all of that. And Jesus obeyed His Father right away, all the way and cheerfully. And He wants you to do the same.

The Bible says that this is the first command that comes with a promise: “Honor your father and your mother, so that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” God promises that if you obey your mom and dad, He will bless you. It will go well for you, and you will live long with Him, not only on this earth, but in the new earth, when God raises everything from the dead like He did with Jesus. If you obey your parents—right away, all the way, and cheerfully—you're going to turn into the kind of boy or girl who will fit in well in the Kingdom of God. We call this *character*. It means that you will become more and more like the good guys you love to read about. It means you will become more and more like Jesus. And when you become more and more like Jesus, that's the best kind of person you can be.

III. For All the Saints

The Westminster Larger Catechism:

Q 127: “What is the honor that inferiors owe to their superiors?”

A: *The honour which inferiors owe to their superiors is, all due reverence in heart, word, and behaviour; prayer and thanksgiving for them; imitation of their virtues and graces; willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels; due submission to their corrections; fidelity to, defence, and maintenance of their persons and authority, according to their several ranks, and the nature of their places; bearing with their infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honour to them and to their government.”*

First. As sons and daughters, we owe our parents *all due reverence in heart, word and behavior*. We ought always to treat our parents through every season with respect. This means addressing them, not as our peers, but with honor. Being quick to listen to them, not talking over them. Not shutting them up, or dismissing them or ridiculing them. You've heard the proverb: "Familiarity breeds contempt." Familiarity is rooted in word *family*. We are prone to treat our family members, and especially our parents with contempt. But this is to disobey the Lord, and dishonor Him.

Second. Honoring your parents means offering up to God *prayer and thanksgiving for them*. We should be mindful of how our parents are in need of God's grace. If they raised us in the Lord, they undoubtedly prayed for us daily, and now we get to make some return to them by regularly praying for them. This is especially true for our aged parents. Our standing posture toward our parents should be one of gratitude. Parents are gifts. We should also give thanks for your forefathers (e.g., grandparents, great grandparents, the founders of our nation, the founders of our civilization, the founders of the Church).

Third. As sons and daughters we ought to imitate *our parents' their virtues and graces*. Our endeavor should be to imitate all of their good qualities: their faithfulness, their affection, their good sense of humor, their work-ethic, their selflessness. It's easy to pick at loose threads and unravel the character of our parent. After all, a prophet is not without honor, except in his own country and in his own house (Matt. 13:57). This is arrogant and the opposite of honoring our parents. Honoring your parents means casting their actions in the best light. Making much of their virtues and graces, and seeking to learn from them and imitate them.

Fourth. Honoring involves likewise *willing obedience to their lawful commands and counsels and due submission to their corrections*. As sons and daughters, we owe to our parents obedience. This is especially true of sons and daughters who live in the house. Moving out of the home, and especially marrying creates a different dynamic. But sons and daughters are still called to honor their father and mother, listen to their counsel, render them due respect.

Fifth. As sons and daughters we should likewise demonstrate *loyalty* to our parents: "fidelity to, defence, and maintenance of their persons and authority." Our parents are our people, at the very least according to the flesh. We bear their name. Loyalty to our parents means that we should go to bat for them. Defend them. Love them. Protect their good name. It also means we should seek to help them in their old age. Go along with your parents, and strive to be a part of the good work they're doing, and seek to carry on that good work in your generation.

Sixth. As sons and daughters we are called likewise to *bear with our parents' infirmities, and covering them in love, that so they may be an honour to them and to their rule*. Parents aren't perfect. This demands of us as sons and daughters much forbearance and love. See Gen. 9. The way we treat our parents is a training ground for how we treat our God. See 1 John 4:20-21. Our posture toward our parents is a mirror of our posture toward God, the Father of all. You cannot dishonor your parents, while pretending to honor God. See Mark 7:9-13.

IV. Come & Welcome to Jesus Christ