

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.



Colossians 3:20-21
Ephesians 6:4

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Today in Colossians we continue looking at a new understanding of what were called “household codes.” Household codes governed how people within a household would/should act and interact with one another. They laid out who had authority and what responsibilities each person in the household were (by law) committed to. Today we look at parents and children.

What type of household rules or codes did you have as a child in your home(s)?

The best thing that could happen in any Gospel Community is the Biblical model of community, which is a mingling of the generations for the good of all. Throughout Scripture, we see the model of a diverse church community encouraged and celebrated.

- **Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.**

Obey “in everything” refers back to the 10 commandments and “honoring your father and mother.” We must think maturely and in context. Paul is not saying your parents are always right; he is saying that a duty before God is to love them in the most honoring way.

When is it honoring to disobey your parents? How is obeying them a good thing?

In first century Rome, the father had authority until his death. What Paul says is we need to honor our mother and father, regardless of whether they’re right or wrong. The command “obey” can be read literally, “listen under your parents.” Honoring and obeying starts with listening. Of course, we must always obey God first.

- **21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.**

When we understand the goodness of God, we can realize that Jesus doesn’t change us by paying us back for our sin; He changes us by absorbing the effects of sin onto Himself. Parents are to model authority with love and grace as given to us by Jesus.

Were you “exasperated” as a child? How did your parents reflect the love of God as Father? How did it differ?

1. **A child’s relationship to their parents teaches them about the authority of God.**
2. **Your child learns to submit to God by submitting to you.**

You are like the training wheels; we are called to love and guide children like God does. It is a challenge to ask if you are extending your authority beyond what is helpful in teaching them to submit to God.

Here are some practical things that I hope help (today or in the future):

- **Discipline must be consistent.**
- **Discipline has to be age-appropriate.**
- **Discipline should adhere to Biblical principles of fairness and justice.**
- **Discipline should be child-specific.**
- **Discipline has to be administered in love and not in anger.**
- **Discipline should be forward-thinking and a part of a relationship between parents and children.**

How were the above points modeled or not modeled in your home? How can you grow in healthy discipline within your own home?

We will all fail at this. – Extend grace because you have been extended grace. We work, we serve, and we are part of God’s sanctifying process over the community of faith until He calls us home.

How can remembering God’s grace enable us to be better parents, friends, children, and servants to one another?

May we be reminded that we have a Savior who loves us, not because of our works, but because of the cross.