

**THE FAMILY: CHILDREN**  
**PREPARING FOR THEIR GODLY FUTURE**  
**Lesson 4**

**INTRODUCTON**

1. On the day of their birth, do children “*obey their parents?*” Do they know anything about “*honoring their father and mother?*” Are they motivated on their first birthday to do anything because they will “*live long on the earth?*”
2. There will be a day when, as children, they will be responsible to know, understand and be motivated by Ephesians 6:1-2:
  - a. “*Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother (which is the first commandment with promise), that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*”
3. This lesson highlights what your child should become before the Lord.
  - a. Knowing this, potential fathers, and more crucially, present fathers can fulfill their leadership role in the family by planning for their children’s godly future.
  - b. Fathers, having proper goals before them, can better make sure the crucial days of their children’ development will not be wasted.
  - c. This lesson is not designed to create uptight micromanaging fathers. Godly fathers and their motherly wives are allowed to “breathe” as they remember how “general” God’s instructions for raising children are.
4. However, “*When you fail to prepare, you prepare to fail.*”

**I. “THE IMPERATIVES”**

- A. “Children Obey”...(Eph. 6:1).
  1. ὑπακούω hypakouō;— hearken, be obedient to, obey.
  2. “parents” – dad and mom
    - a. Prepared parents will first make sure to be united in their demands.
    - b. “No sassing mom!” – “Do what your daddy says!”  
(cf. Matt. 21:28-31).
- B. Do what is “right” (Eph. 6:1).  
δικαίος dikaios; — just, meet, right(-eous).
  1. God is the standard for “righteousness” (Jn. 5:30, I Jn. 2:29).
  2. He that is “righteous” will do that which is right (Lk. 1:6).
  3. Will always look deeper than appearances in making judgments (Jn. 7:24).
- C. Do what is “well-pleasing in the Lord” (Col. 3:20).
  1. εὐάρεστος euarestos; agreeable: — acceptable(-ted)
  2. Pleasing the Lord will be a priority – not pleasing men (Gal. 1:10, Eph.6:5-8).

- D. Children “Honor...” (Eph. 6:2).
1. τιμάω timāō; fix a valuation upon; by implication, to revere: — honor, value.
  2. Make sure they are exposed to godly “heroes” (cf. Hebrews 11).

## II. “THE DO’S AND DON’T’S”

- A. Fathers “nurture them...” (Eph. 6:4).
1. Rear up to maturity, nourish.
  2. Nourish body, soul, and spirit – the inward and outer child (cf. I Thess. 5:23, I Tim. 5:10).
- B. Fathers “nurture them in the “chastening” of the Lord.
1. παιδεία paideia; tutorage, i.e. education or training; by implication, disciplinary correction: — chastening, chastisement, instruction.
  2. 2 Tim. 3:16 – Scripture is source for spiritual instruction.
  3. Heb. 12:7,11 – Love driven chastening
- C. Fathers “nurture them in the “admonition” of the Lord.
1. νουθεσία nouthesia; calling attention to, i.e. (by implication) mild rebuke or warning: — admonition.
  2. Warnings found in Scripture ( I Cor. 10:11)
- D. Fathers do not “provoke” them to “exasperated wrath”
1. Do not “arouse” them to “spiritless discouragement” (Col. 3:21).
  2. Do not make “unreasonable demands” or set “petty rules.”
  3. Do not “play favorites” (cf. Gen. 37:3-4 Jacob, his sons and Joseph).

## III. COMPATIBLE GOALS:

- A. “Attentive listening” to mom and dad - first step to obeying them.
1. hypakouō; to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively.
- B. Obedience fosters “self-discipline.”
1. Leads generally to a “well” and “long life.”
  2. Leads to “daily Bible Readers” – Old and New Testament:
    - a. Deut. 5:16
    - b. Ephesians 6:1-3; Col. 3:20
  3. Corrective discipline - essential in true love (Proverbs 13:24, 22:15, 23:13-14).
    - a. Part of training to reach the godly goal (Prov. 22:6).
    - b. Applying in hope (Prov. 19:18)
    - c. Giving wisdom – avoiding shame (Prov. 29:15,17, 10:1,5).

- C. Obedience essential in “other important relationships:”
  - 1. Government (Rom.13:1, I Pet. 2:13-17)
  - 2. Church – elders (Heb. 13:17)
  - 3. Daughter – submitting to her future husband (Col. 3:18 I Pet. 3:5-6)
  
- D. Establishing Godly “values”
  - 1. “Honor” - “fix a valuation upon...”
  - 2. “Goodness” and “truth” are strong components of character (Eph. 5:9-10).
  - 3. “Glorifying God” is the ultimate purpose in life (2 Thess. 1:11-12).
  
- E. Doing “good works” (Heb. 13:21)
  - 1. Will be a “constant” in life (Rom. 2:7)
  
- F. Living in all “good conscience” – doing what is right
  - 1. A constant imperative (Acts 23:1)
  - 2. Preparation for life’s critical moments of “character” (cf. Dan. 3:13-18)

## CONCLUSION

- 1. With time, your children will grow to bodily maturity. Providing nourishing food and a safe home environment are the minimums expected of caring parents (cf. I Tim.5:8). But today, such safeguards are often provided by the government, and other institutions as some fathers and mothers have abandoned their role in the family.
- 2. Godly parents not only provide for their children’s physical needs, but plan for their spiritual well-being in life as well.
- 3. Develop your personal plan as a parent on the framework of God’s Word.