

Study Guide: "Submission through Obedience"

Carter Sanger, Oct-09

Introduction

Do you talk to your parents much? What kind of relationship do you have with them?

What do you think about the common view of parents on kids' television shows? Do you think your children look at you the same way?

Read Ephesians 6:1-3.

I. Obeying your parents is trusting God

In verse 1, Paul instructs to obey your parents for this is right or righteous.

- What do we observe about parents makes this a difficult command?
- Do you think there are any conditions that would make disobedience more righteous? If so, what are they?
- Do you think having an explanation for each command is necessary?
- What makes it possible to obey a parent that is flawed?

II. Obeying your parents is loving God

Paul references the fifth commandment; honor your father and mother.

- What kind of commands come before this one? What kind of commands come after? Do you think this one belongs more with the first set or the second?
- Honor means "to give weight" or to hold in high value. A child applies this by obeying his parents. Read Eph 5:31 and Psalm 127:4. Does a child ever reach a point when obedience is not the primary application of honoring your parents? What might honoring your parents change application when a child grows up?

III. Obeying your parents leads to long life

Reread verse 3.

- What is the result of a child's obedience?
- The phrase "in the land" refers back to a promise made to Abraham in Genesis 12:1 and expounded in Genesis 17:7-8. What does this promise say about the way God intends to build his Kingdom? What is to be inherited by Abraham's children? Does this promise extend to all believing parents? Read Acts 2:39 for help.
- Read Hebrews 11:8-16 and Revelation 21:1-3. Where is "the land" today?
- Does obedience earn a child his inheritance? What does disobedience from a child show with respect to his birthright? Did any in Israel fail to inherit the land?

Wrap-up

- Does this passage change your perspective on the significance of a child's obedience?