

## *Ephesians: Love & Submission in the Family*

*Ephesians 6:1-4*

### **Children (v. 1-3)**

- Children, we are called to obey our parents 'in the Lord'
- Children (τέκνα) = offspring of any age
  - Since Paul emphasizes rearing, it is more directed at non-adult children
  - However, culturally, fathers had a level of authority over their adult children as well
- Obey = Listen to them, and do what they tell you to
  - 'In the Lord' = Christian parents who are obeying Jesus
- Paul's instruction is based on the 5<sup>th</sup> commandment (Deut 5:16)
  - Here, the focus is on giving honor to your parents
    - Honor = giving a good name or reputation to
  - To do this, we must make God-honoring choices
- Paul calls us to obey our Christian parents for our own good (v. 3)

### **Parents (v. 4)**

- Parents, we are called to train & instruct our children in God's truth
- Parents: A term of relationship, not of age
- Train = Help them develop godly ways of acting
- Instruct = Help them develop godly ways of thinking
  - Both based in Scripture
- We are not to do this in a way that promotes anger in our children or ourselves
  - This was a stark contrast to the family structure of the Greco-Roman culture around the early Church
- This means that we must know our children to understand what they need and how to raise them (Pro 22:6, CSB)
  - This will not look the same for every child

### **So What?**

- Children, are we listening to and obeying the godly instruction of our parents?
- Parents, are we training our children to know and obey Jesus?
- Both are acts of love & submission to Jesus & one another

**Meditation Verse:** *Ephesians 6:1, 4*