

RESPECT

Stop that crying or I'll _____
This hurts me more than it _____
You better obey me before I get to the count of _____
Why do I have to do that... because _____
All my friends get to do that. You are the _____

These are almost universal sayings in families that demonstrate the conflict that occurs in every family

My favorite:

Just wait until your _____
Baseball bat story

Not the way the honor my parents. Which is part of what I am speaking about today.
Children/Teens; Honor your father & mother. But parents there is a message in this for you also.

Before I go on... there are parents who are abusive and have caused great harm to their children. Please don't misunderstand me in thinking that I am saying that is ok. If that occurred or is occurring you need to talk to someone about it. There is still a way to honor them without continuing to allow that behavior to harm you.

If God through His word, specifically tells us to do something than it would seem to me to be important. If it is mentioned several times then we should really pay attention.

In the 10 commandments:

Ex.20:12 Honor your father and mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

Deut. 5:16 Honor your father and mother, as the Lord your God has commanded you, so that you may live long and that it may go well with you in the land the Lord your God is giving you.

In the New Testament honoring your parents is combined with obeying them

Ephesians 6:2-3 Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" which is the first command with a promise – "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

Parents this doesn't mean you communicate to your children "obey me or you aren't long for this world."

Interesting that the commandment contains a promise...the only other of the 10 commandments that has any type of promise is "you shall have no other gods before me".

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

Honor: public admiration, outward respect

What does honoring your parents look like?

What do you say about your parents to your peers?

How do you respond to them in public?

Do you listen to them eagerly?

Do you speak and respond in a respectful way?

Even when your parents make mistakes or are wrong, you need to honor them; The list could go on and on

Obey: to follow the commands or guidance of; to comply with or to carry out

What does obey your parents mean?

Do what they say

Attitude is also important: Obey joyfully, willingly... not grudgingly, or only if they are looking

In our house. Something that is very important is:

"First time obedience" - you should not have to be asked more than once. It is a sign of disrespect to your parents if you don't respond and obey the first time you are asked.

Parents: You have to start this very early with your children. You can't let them talk back to you and get away with disrespect or disobedience when they are young. So often when we see that happen, as a parent our response to a young child being disobedient is... "isn't that cute"...or boy, they have a strong personality don't they... just like their dad." And we laugh it off. A few years later we don't like what we see and suddenly we change the rules. That doesn't work very well and the battle to determine who is in charge can get ugly.

Parents: It is not too late to expect honor and respect even if you have teens who don't give it to you now, it is just harder and takes time and consistency from you.

Ok... now if you are a teen or child you are thinking... I wish we had slept in this morning or been out of town. You can relax for a couple of minutes while I talk to your parents.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers do not exasperate your children, instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Exasperate: to make angry...annoy greatly

Parents: You should make it easy for your children to obey and respect you. Just as we know that God wants the best for us and made an incredible sacrifice for us in Jesus, it should be obvious to our children that we want the very best for them and will sacrifice many of our own wants & desires for them. Your love for them should be obvious. You should model for them and treat them with what the Bible calls the fruit of the spirit...Galatians 5:22 : But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

A side note here: Parents: How you treat each other is huge. Don't ever talk disrespectfully about your spouse to your children. If you don't show respect to your spouse how can you expect your children to show it. Present a unified front. Don't say, "well I wanted to let you go, but you know your dad... you know how he is about these things" Do you honor your own parents even though you are parents yourself?

Back to what you model for your children....

If your children were asked to describe you, would those be some of the words they would use?

How do you talk to your children in public? What do you say about them when they aren't around? You need to see their strengths and weakness in a realistic way but you should be their biggest champions.

You need to be consistent in what you expect and ask for. If not, you will exasperate them.

Parents: Do you set the example for your children in the way that you obey God?

Do you do what God has asked you to do with a good attitude?

Obey joyfully, willingly... not grudgingly, or only if you think "HE" is looking. Your children, even though they often won't admit it, will take on the character and behaviors that they see in their parents. It is unrealistic to expect your children to respect and honor and obey you if you don't respect, honor and obey God

Proverbs 22:6 Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. You train by teaching, but mostly you train by leading and setting an example.

So, in conclusion what would I recommend to you to begin this next year?

Children & teens... Honor, respect and obey your parents. As Ephesians says, "– "that it may go well with you" Life is much easier and pleasant.

Parents: Honor, respect and obey God. God promises over and over in His Word that he blesses obedience.

Finally... when Jesus told the parable of the talents...the two who took what the master gave them and multiplied them. They were told. "Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things: I will put you in charge of many things. Parents, as your children prove faithful and obedient... encourage them, praise them, build them up and give them more freedom and responsibility. That will help them grow into the men and women that God desires them to be and your home will be a better place to be this next year.

DEVOTE

Definition = *to give entirely* to a specific person, activity, or cause; to dedicate; to "give priority to"; "pay attention to"; *to set aside or apart* for a specific purpose or use; to focus one's efforts, *commit oneself entirely to* a certain matter; to be zealous in devotion or affection

1 Chronicles 22:19 – “Now devote your heart and soul to seeking the LORD your God.”

- David had made extensive preparations for the Temple → materials, funding, and leaders provided
- Solomon had every advantage → God had blessed him with wisdom, wealth, and a period of peace
- Solomon succeeded in completing the task he had been given → A great accomplishment indeed!
- **And yet...**
- We cannot rely on our circumstances...
- We cannot rest on our past accomplishments...
- We must never begin to think too highly of ourselves...

1 Kings 11:4 - As Solomon grew old, his wives turned his heart after other gods, and his heart was not fully devoted to the LORD his God, as the heart of David his father had been.

- Something went terribly wrong...
- David's charge to Solomon was to devote his heart and soul to seeking the LORD
- Solomon gave part of his heart away to other things... He was entrapped by the 'lure for more'...
- Solomon **became half-hearted** in his devotion to the Lord...
- The king with the 'half-heart' did more lasting damage to God's kingdom than the king with 'no heart'...
- Have you ever mistakenly thought → If only...

Matthew 6:24 - "No one can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. "

- Jesus makes it clear → **True devotion cannot be shared...**

2 Corinthians 11:3 – “But I am afraid that just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ.”

- Paul's concern for the Corinthian church remains God's concern for us...
- Satan's seductive and relentless strategy... Our need to guard our minds and our hearts...

God's goals for each of us...

Goal # 1 = **Whole-hearted devotion**

- Does God have your whole heart? What else competes for your heart's affection?

Goal # 2 = **Sincerity and Purity in our devotion to Christ**

- It's not about where we come from or what we have done but what we are seeking...
- Cultivating contentment in our circumstances along with distrust of the 'lure for more'...

SHARE

Family Service 2009

Intro: Darlene and I before Children in Dallas

- More churches (5 on one corner!)
- Less real faith...Culturally went to church, City was wicked!
- Said right things..but did not change the way most people lived

Had faith...but it wasn't sincere faith, wasn't real faith...Words...not Actions

That's the issue Paul is writing to Timothy about in 2 Tim 2:5

"I have been reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also."

He is writing about having a faith that is real...and this morning that's my part of the message. Speak to you about how do you develop your children develop a real faith..not just words! One of the greatest dangers of Christian family...drift

1. Our Goal: Sincere Faith

*Lit= to have a faith where your words and your actions match up! Not saying on thing
And doing another!*

Now, we all have the tendency to do that sometimes...to say something...not be real!

When my girls were younger:

Dad...can we..... "Let me think about it!"

Girls...clean your room... "In a minute!"

How do you create that?

- *Model it for them*
- *Expect it from them*
- *Surround them with people that live the same way*

(Caught..not taught!)

2. Our Family Faith is Essential

Studies: Single most important element in the development of faith?

Parents: Children catch this from their parents!

- *Embrace your responsibility here (Esp dads) (Soccer/Dance/Baseball)*
- *Expose them to new opportunities (Cotton Candy/Service Annapolis Missions)*
- *Express your personal faith where they can see it*

3. Encouragement For Single Parent Families or Single Believing Families

Sometimes single parents, esp moms, get discouraged...don't be!

Here in this passage you find something that is incredible

- Timothy was a product of a single-believing home (Acts 16)
- God used him in incredible ways (2books of NT)
- He was one of Paul's closest friends...

QUESTIONS:

Parents: Do the actions of your life match up with the words that you say

Are you doing more than just talking...are you invested ... cant hand this off!

Kids: Do you have a real faith...or, just saying the words?

Parents: Recommit Self Kids: Commit you life to Jesus