

HOW THE GOSPEL CHANGES OUR FAMILIES

Eph. 6:1-4

Passage in a Sentence: In the gospel-centered home, God is glorified when parents lovingly lead and live according to God's Word and children learn to obey and honor.

- I. The responsibilities of parents in a Gospel-centered home (Eph. 6:4)
 - a. Parents have always been called to be the primary disciple makers of their children (Deut. 6; Neh. 8:13; Eph. 6:4)
 - i. In Deut. 6, we see
 1. Parents are to model submission to God's authority in every facet of life (6:4)
 2. Parents are to model absolute love for God (6:5)
 3. Parents are to model how to treasure God's Word (6:6)
 4. Parents are to teach God's Word to us (6:7-9)
 - a. In our home there should be a verbal commitment to God's Word (6:7)
 - b. In our home there should be a visible commitment to God's Word (6:8-9)
 - ii. In Neh. 8:13, we see the heads of the families gathered to learn the Word and then live it.
 - iii. Parents are and have always been the primary disciple makers of their children.
 - b. Fathers, in particular, have primary responsibility in parenting for their children's good and God's glory (Eph. 6:4)
 - c. As parents, we are to mentor our children in God's commands.
 - i. We are to nurture our children through:
 1. Discipline
 - a. Ultimately both are formative and corrective discipline should be for our children's good and their growth in holiness.
 - b. We must discipline our children consistently.
 - c. We must know the difference between disobedience and immaturity
 2. Filling their minds with the things of the Lord
 - a. The main focus/teaching of parenting is that life is to be lived for the glory of God.
 - i. For this to happen:
 1. The things of the Lord have to be in and on our mind.
 2. We have to be with our children.
 3. We cannot pass down what we do not possess.
 - ii. Model how to seek and love God and His Word.
 1. Let them see you receive and memorize the Lord's Word.
 2. Let them see you call out to for God's wisdom.
 3. Let them see you seeking God's wisdom as a treasure.
 - iii. Model the benefits of walking in God's Word.

- d. As parents, we are to model for our children God's character.
 - i. We are to be imitators of God, our heavenly Father, as beloved children (Eph. 5:1).
 - ii. We are not to provoke our children to anger.
 - iii. Cole: In order not to provoke our children to anger, we must have our own anger under control.

- e. As parents, our only hope for shepherding our children well is Jesus. (Eph. 5:18)

II. The responsibilities of children in a gospel-centered home (6:1-3)

- a. As children, we should obey our parents the first time, every time, with a glad heart.
- b. As children, we should honor our parents and treat them with the respect God commands.
- c. As children, our obeying and our honoring of our parents is ultimately an obeying and honoring of the Lord.
- d. As children, we should obey and honor our parents because:
 - i. This is right.
 - ii. It will go well with us.
 - iii. So that we may live long in the land.
- e. As children, our only hope for obeying and honoring our parents is Jesus. (Eph. 5:18)