

Ephesians

Why Should Children Obey Their Parents?

Ephesians 6:1-4 (NLT) – Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. ²“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: ³If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

Colossians 3:20-21 (ESV) - Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Luke 2:51 (NLT) - Then he (Jesus) returned to Nazareth with them (his parents) and was obedient to them.

How Obedient Children Are Blessed

Obedient children will avoid destructive choices and destructive consequences.

Ephesians 6:3 - If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

Proverbs 19:20-21 - Get all the advice and instruction you can, so you will be wise the rest of your life. ²¹ You can make many plans, but the Lord’s purpose will prevail.

Obedient children will learn to live under authority.

This will cause them to know and trust God.

Psalms 32:8-10 (NLT) - The Lord says, “I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you. ⁹ Do not be like a senseless horse or mule that needs a bit and bridle to keep it under control.” ¹⁰ Many sorrows come to the wicked, but unfailing love surrounds those who trust the Lord.

The Role Of Parents

The main responsibility of a parent is to teach their children how to love and honor God.

Ephesians 6:4 - Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

4 Ways Parents Should Raise Their Children

Train them in the way they should go, not in the way they would like to go

Proverbs 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

Discipline them with purpose and consistency

Proverbs 23:13-14 (NKJV) - Do not withhold correction from a child, for if you beat him with a rod, he will not die. ¹⁴ You shall beat him with a rod, and deliver his soul from hell.

Proverbs 29:17 (ESV) - Discipline your son, and he will give you rest; he will give delight to your heart.

Hebrews 12:10-11 (NLT) - For our earthly fathers disciplined us for a few years, doing the best they knew how. But God’s discipline is always good for us, so that we might share in his holiness. ¹¹ No discipline is enjoyable while it is happening—it’s painful! But afterward there will be a peaceful harvest of right living for those who are trained in this way.

Be loving and patient rather than harsh and cruel

- unreasonable demands for perfection
- constant nagging over minor infractions
- lack of encouragement and affirmation
- harsh, unloving rebukes or cruelty
- public embarrassment
- verbal or physical abuse
- showing favoritism for one child over another
- overprotective hovering that stifles growth
- making them in your image rather than how God created them

Raise your children with an eternal perspective

John 17:3 - And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth.