

## THE DUTY OF ALL CHILDREN (Ephesians 6:1-3)

What do you highly prize in life? Perhaps a number of things come to mind. Did you know that God calls each of us to highly prize our parents? It is true. The 5<sup>th</sup> Commandment requires us to “honor” them.

Today rebellion against all authorities seems to be the rule of the day, and this includes parents. However, God has not changed His mind. All children are required to both obey and honor their parents. No generation gap!

Paul tells us that it is the child’s duty to obey and it is the parent’s duty to teach obedience. To teach a child to obey is to teach him to obey God. If you don’t teach obedience, then you are teaching him to defy God.

### **TWO COMMANDS DIRECTING US IN RELATION TO OUR PARENTS SO THAT WE WILL ENJOY THEM AND LONG LIFE.**

This is the only command found in the Bible directed solely to children.

#### **I. As Children, We Are Commanded By God To Obey Our Parents. (v.1)**

This involves an action. Obedience is the fundamental relationship of children to parents.

A. In this verse, which all Christian parents have memorized, the word “obey” means “to be under the hearing of.” It therefore means to listen and do what you are told.

1. Children are to put themselves under the words and authority of their parents.
2. The sense of this imperative is durative: keep obeying your parents.

B. To whom is Paul speaking? “Children.” All children still-living under dad and mom’s roof.

C. Jesus set a wonderful example for us in this. (Luke 2:51-52) He was the Creator of all, yet He submitted in obedience to Joseph and Mary. He always chose to obey them.

Note: The so-called generational gap is Satan’s attempt to ruin the family, dividing children from their parents. Such a thing exposes children to all sorts of evils.

D. Paul gives us the manner of the obedience we owe our parents. “in the Lord.”

1. Parents are God’s proxies, that is, they stand in the place of God to their children. (loving, providing, and law-giving) Shakespeare: “Parents are God’s lieutenants.”  
Your kids do not belong to the state, contrary to much that is heard today.

2. Children are to obey their parents in everything, as long as it does not violate Bible.

E. Paul tells that such obedience “is right.” Boice believes this refers to Natural Law. That means God has stamped this upon the hearts and conscience of all people, we know by nature it is true. Furthermore, God alone determines what is right, not man. Colossians 3:20: “pleases the Lord.”

