God's Way: Families, Eph 6:1–4

April 22

INTRODUCTION: The 2nd half of Ephesians about Christian behaviour has covered a lot of ground: unity, the new life, Christian living… That walk, or being filled by the Spirit, is also evident in how we submit to our God given roles in the family. Having considered wives and husbands, we now consider children and parents.

KEY WORD: obey, children, parents, 5th commandment, fathers

REVIEW: Chs. 1–3, Belief; chs 4–6, Behaviour

A.M. SERMON RECAP (Eph 5:22–24, God's Way: Wives)

- What is the role of a wife?
- What is the reason given for her role?
- Practically, what does it mean for a wife to fulfil her role?
- Other…

P.M. SERMON RECAP (Eph 5:25–33, God's Way: Husbands)

- What is the role of a husband?
- What is the reason given for his role?
- Practically, what does it mean for a husband to fulfil his role?
- Other…

READ: Eph 6:1–4

QUESTIONS

Children

1. **If children were hearing this letter read then they were present in w_____p.**[1]
2. What age is considered a child?
3. **When we reach the age of majority in our culture, are we still called to obey our parents; if so how?**
4. **What does it mean to obey? (i.e. role).**
5. *'Once in Royal David's City' reminds us of Jesus example.* Can you remember the lyrics? Read: Lk 2:51.
6. **Like wives, is a child's obedience unconditional? Read Acts 5:29 (c.f. Mt 10:34–39).**
7. Paul seems to root this obedience in three areas:
   a. "Obey your parents"- *natural law*- How have most civilizations taught this?
   b. "For this is right"- *God's law* (c.f. 10 commandments).
   c. "In the Lord"- *Gospel*- **How does the Gospel change children so that they obey parents out of reverence for Christ? How is obedience one indicator that a child has come to know the Lord?**

Children and the 10 Commandments[2]

8. Read Ex 20:12 and Dt 5:16.[3]
9. **How does honour differ from obey?**
10. Why was disobedience punishable by death in the Old Testament? Read Lev 20:9, Dt 21:18–21.
11. **To rebel against parents is to rebel against _____.** How are parents God's representatives who remind us of the giver of life?
12. While not commanding the death penalty, how is it still a grave sin in the New Testament? **Read Ro 1:30; 2 Ti 3:1–5.**
13. *A promise means a blessing.* If under the New Covenant the Church is an international community and living long and prospering in the land no longer applies, **what is the blessing does obedience bring to the child?**
14. How is obedience a sign of holiness? (Lev 10:1–3).

Fathers (parallel passage: Col 3:21= discouraged)

1. **While children are to honour and obey both parents, why might it be the father listed here?**
2. *How does a wife's submission to her husband, enhance rather than detract from her dignity here?*

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[1] *This is one reason why we have intergenerational worship at MBC.*
[2] The old Baptist catechism, Qs 68–71, expands this to respecting all of our superiors and relations.
[3] *Jews see this as part of the first table of the law whereas Christians traditionally have placed it in the second.* How might it be a transition?

3. *In the Roman world children were nothing. There was infanticide and they could be sold into slavery.* **How are children treated today?**
4. Negatively, what are fathers commanded? **How might a father provoke his child(ren)?** Why would he do that?
5. *In the positive, Paul commands fathers to do 2 things in the biblical teaching of love and truth (4:15).* **What are they?**
6. How ought remembering the tenderness of the child and who God is as father (4:6) inform him?
7. *Discipline: Meaning disciplinary correction.* **What two extremes exist here?**
8. What does the Bible command? Read Prov 13:24, 22:15, 23:13–14, 29:15; and Heb 12:6?
9. Discipline should be offered in self-c_____; l__e and t___th. **What does this look like? Why should it be the father who takes the lead in discipline?**
10. *Instruction: verbal (but also example, c.f. chs. 4–5).* What is the instruction of the Lord? (Dt 6:7–9). **How do they instruct?** Why should it be the father who takes the lead in family worship?
11. **What confidence ought a father have that he exercises God's authority here ('of the Lord')?**

NEXT WEEK: April 29- God's Way: Slaves and Masters, Eph 6:5–9