

MESSAGE FIVE

SUGGESTED PASSAGE: Ephesians 6:1-3 (NASB)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), 3 SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

MESSAGE GOAL:

This sermon will help people understand what God role for children should be within the family unit.

INTRODUCTION:

There used to be a time when if adults were walking down the street and they came upon a group of teenagers, the teenagers would step aside to let the adults pass by. By doing this, the teenagers were showing respect for their elders. But today it's not like that. Today when adults are walking down the street and they see a group of teenagers, the adults move out of the way to let the teens pass. That's because there has been a great reversal in roles. Adults often feel intimidated by young people, and many young people have developed an attitude of dishonor and rebellion.

Today, children take their parents to court if they don't like the way they're being raised or if they want to be independent of their parents. But it's interesting that these same kids who declare their independence from their parents still want to depend on them for some of the basic necessities of life. We're living in a day when many children don't even think they need their parents. Technology has made it so that they can go to their rooms and do their own thing with their own TV, iPhone, iPad, iTunes—except when it comes to eating, then they want to know what their parents have done to put food in the refrigerator.

We have raised a generation of young people who have little respect for their elders and even their parents. But in the kingdom agenda—the way God wants His kingdom to work—children have a responsibility to their parents. Paul makes that clear when he commands children to obey and honor their parents in Ephesians 6:1-3.

SERMON POINTS:

1. CHILDREN, REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT YOUR OBEDIENCE IS TO GOD'S KINGDOM

- Obedience plays a crucial role within the context of God's kingdom agenda.
- God expects all Christians to obey Him so that His blessing may rest on them.
- God calls believers to obey the governing structures He has placed over them.
- Even Jesus Christ had to learn obedience to God the Father. (Hebrews 5:8)
- If you want your heavenly Father to honor you, you must obey Him.

2. HONOR AND OBEY YOUR PARENTS OUT OF RESPECT FOR GOD. (EXODUS 20:12)

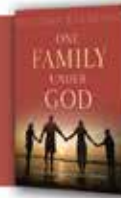
- Children have a God-ordained obligation to honor and obey their parents.
- Obedience means that a child will honor the desires, requests, and requirements of their parents as long as the child still looks to his or her parents for protection and provision.
- Children should show their parents honor by revering them and holding them in high esteem.
- Grown children must honor their parents by supporting them in their old age. (1 Timothy 5:4)
- In ancient Israel, when children rebelled against their parents, the parents were to bring the rebellious kids to the elders. (Deuteronomy 21:18-19)

3. REMEMBER THAT GOD WANTS TO BLESS YOU WHEN YOU OBEY YOUR PARENTS. (EPHESIANS 6:1-3)

- In both the Old and New Testaments, God's command to honor and obey parents is connected with a blessing.
- When children honor their earthly mother and father, God will honor them and allow them to live out the full number of days He has ordained for them.
- Jesus modeled both honoring one's father and receiving honor from one's father. Jesus came to glorify His Father and God the Father glorified Jesus. (John 13:31-32)

our society's problem
is not solely our *government's* problem.
it is **the church's** problem.
it is *our* problem.





- Children who have not honored their parents must do whatever it takes to make things right.

4. LOOK TO YOUR PARENTS AS THEY REFLECT GOD'S IMAGE.

- Parents must model obedience to their kids by honoring and obeying the Lord.
- Parents should pass on God's wisdom to their children. (Proverbs 1:8)
- Parents should teach their kids the importance of submission to God, to parents, and to the authorities God has placed over them.

SERMON ILLUSTRATIONS:

BIBLICAL OBEDIENCE: A son was watching his favorite TV show when his father came into the living room and said, "Son, please go empty the trash." The son replied, "I don't feel like it." Stunned by his son's response, the father said, "Son, I'm not interested in having an emotional conversation about your feelings. I'm just interested in you emptying the trash." "But I'm watching my favorite show," whined the son. "Son, your favorite show has to wait because your father has given you an instruction." Parents must teach their children that obedience doesn't depend on emotions but on honoring their parents as the authority God has placed over them.

QUOTES ATTRIBUTED TO DR. TONY EVANS:

"We have raised a generation of children who have little regard for their elders and even their parents."

"Obedience means that a child will honor the desires, requests, and requirements of their parents as long as they are still looking to their parents for protection and provision."

"To honor means to hold in high esteem."

"You are to support your parents as they get older."

"When God sees you honoring your earthly father and mother, you will get honor from your heavenly Father."

"If you have been dishonoring to your parents, change it, and I mean, right now!"