



Ephesians 6:1-4

Instruction to Children and Fathers

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Obey Your Parents

Ephesians 6:1 (NASB)

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for **this is right**.

- Children here denotes dependent children old enough to understand
- "In the Lord" means having respect for Christ
- What makes this "right" is the command of God
- Parents need to set the boundaries

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Honor Your Parents

Ephesians 6:2a (NASB)

Honor your father and mother

- In the honor/shame Jewish culture, to bring dishonor to parents was wicked
- Honor is *timao* and means "to highly value, esteem, and treat with favor"
- In the OT, to disobey parents was to dishonor them and to obey was to honor
- To ignore or rebel against God's command was to dishonor God

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A Command With Promise

Ephesians 6:2b, 3 (NASB)

...(which is the first commandment with a promise) **that it may be well with you**, and that you may live long on the earth.

- Paul omits the land promise in Ex. 20:12 that was specific to Israel
- By citing "on the earth" Paul shows that this about one's well-being now
- This is a general principle, not an absolute certainty as the rest of the OT shows

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Do Not Provoke But Train

Ephesians 6:4 (NASB)

Fathers, **do not provoke your children to anger**, **but bring them up** in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- "Provoke" is literally "provoke to anger"
- This instruction is unique to the NT
- The authority God gives fathers is to be used wisely and not abusively
- "Bring them up" is *ektrepho* which means to nourish, bring to maturity

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Implications and Applications

- We believe and practice wise living because it is right, not because there are assured outcomes in this life
- The Bible does not teach determinism, but repentance
- In the trials of family life in a fallen world, we must call on God

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Wisdom Cannot Be Judged By Temporal Outcome

Psalm 73:2-4 (LEB)

But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled. My steps had nearly slipped, because I envied the boastful when I saw the well-being of the wicked. For there are no pains up to their death, and their bodies are healthy.

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God's Ways Are Just

Ezekiel 18:29, 30a (NASB)

But the house of Israel says, 'The way of the Lord is not right.' Are My ways not right, O house of Israel? Is it not your ways that are not right? Therefore I will judge you, O house of Israel, each according to his conduct," declares the Lord GOD. "Repent and turn away from all your transgressions,

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Not Determinism But Repentance

Ezekiel 18:31, 32 (NASB)

"Cast away from you all your transgressions which you have committed and make yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies," declares the Lord GOD. "Therefore, repent and live."

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Call On the Lord

Psalm 50:15 (NASB)

Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I shall rescue you, and you will honor Me.

Zechariah 13:9b (NASB)

They will call on My name, And I will answer them; I will say, 'They are My people,' And they will say, 'The Lord is my God.'

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