

## Sermon Text Discussion Notes 2/9/2020

Ephesians 6:1-4

Ephesians: The Gospel for All of Life

by Drew Hunter

*Family Discipleship*

### Overview

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This text calls believers to see how Jesus can be central to how parents and children relate. It infuses mundane family life with significance and hope. Here we learn of a very Jesus-centered vision for family life. Paul addresses both children and parents.

**Children (v. 1-3)** Children are addressed directly reflecting their value and highlighting the expectation that they can and will know God's commands for them. Children are commanded to "obey your parents in the Lord". In obeying their parents they are also obeying a higher authority, God. They are also commanded to honor their parents, which means to show serious respect and express their value.

**Parents (v.4)** Parents are given a negative command and a positive one. They are to not provoke their children to anger. This can be done through being hypocritical, not apologizing, and neglecting encouragement. Parents are commanded to bring up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Two main categories of family life as parents seek to provide a Christ-centered upbringing are patterns and moments. Fathers need to remember that their children need their dad's attention, affection, instruction, and integrity. For mothers, no matter what season of life you're in—your life matters. Your good work well done is noble. The work of raising up little eternal image bearers is incredibly significant.

### Quotations

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*"Love is one grand secret of successful training... Try hard to keep a hold of your child's affections"*  
(J.C. Ryle)

### Understanding & Application

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1. What positive examples or lessons did you learn about parenting from your childhood? Are there tendencies or patterns for family life that you were exposed to that trip you up?
  2. What children are you now most closely involved with in your life? What encouragement did you receive from this text in regards to your role and responsibility with these young lives?
  3. What challenges do parents face in acknowledging and properly exercising their authority with their children?
  4. What ways do you think the Lord wants you to "honor your mother and father"? (Even if one or both of them are no longer alive, perhaps there are still ways to honor them)
  5. If you are a parent, how can you better establish patterns or rhythms to intentionally provide a Christ-centered family life? What about utilizing moments to do the same?
  6. (Fathers) How can you give your children what they need – attention, affection instruction, and integrity? (Mothers) How are you tempted to not believe your parenting life is significant?
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