

CALL to PRAYER -

Pray for fathers to be engaged and for children to obey

Ephesians 6:1-4 - Family Responsibility

Intro - The family is the building block and barometer of society. Cultures are shaped by the dominate family structure and the health of a society can be gaged by the health of its families. As the family goes, so goes society. Cultures change and collapse when their families collapse. Society's longevity is inextricably linked to the stability of the family. This section of Ephesians has been applying the Christian faith to *the family*. It has already laid out the prescribed roles for husbands & wives. Now it addresses the roles and responsibilities of children and fathers. The Lordship of Christ applies to every area of life...including our homes. And if your faith is not real at home then it is probably not real. These 4 small verses contain eternal wisdom and enough instruction to guide any family. And any home, but especially the Christian home, will benefit greatly if they implement this divine teaching. These four verses address 2 main things: 1] Children obeying. 2] Fathers engaging. These two issues have either a **societal extending** or a **societal ending** ramification. I am not exaggerating when saying this. The God who made us promises either longevity in the land or a cursed land depending on how families conform to the commands that are recorded in our text today. *The Duty of Children & The Duty of Fathers*

THE DUTY OF CHILDREN

- The family is defined. Eph. 6:1-2
 - Father, mother and children make up the family unit.
 - This is a God-ordained unit. Husband/wife (5:22-33) become parents who produce children (6:1-4)
 - The original great commission - Gen. 1:27-28
- The original family unit is under attack. Marriage is not honored & having children is not encouraged
 - The *family* is being redefined & undermined to accommodate its cultural decline.
 - The use of the terms "*parents / mother / father*" are going out of vogue.
 - The school system encourages the use of the term *adults* over *parents/mom/dad*.
 - The family unit is constantly being undermined in our society.
- Children are to obey their parents. 6:1
 - God has established parents as the primary authority system in society.
 - Authority in family comes before any other earthly authority.
 - Children are born with tendency to disobey, and parents must instill obedience
 - Children are to learn obedience to parents as practice to be applied in life.
 - applied to other authorities at school, church, work, government & God. (parents are God's proxy)
- Parental authority is under God's authority 6:1 "*...in the Lord...*"
 - We must all obey God over men when man want us to disobey God. Acts 5:29
 - Mother & grandmother using 7 year old as lookout so they could steal
 - Parents should never require at God forbids. (2 Chron. 22:3 Matt. 14:8; 18:6)
- Requiring obedience from children is a matter of "rights" 6:1 "*...it is right.*"
 - Disobedience is wrong but obedience is right. (good)

- It is “good” for all involved - child, parent, teacher, boss, police, government, community, country
- The matter of obedience comes with a promise. 6:2-3
 - Individually (generally speaking) Eccles. 7:17 Prov. 10:27
 - Culturally (mainly a promise for the community) Exodus 20:12
- When children are not taught to obey the whole of society pays.
 - Sign of the last days - 2 Tim. 3:1-4 (that is some list that *disobedience to parents* is included it)
 - Sign of God giving over a society to its sin Rom. 1:28-31 (Prov. 30:11-14 NKJV)
 - Jesus advocated the death penalty for those who curse their parents. Matt. 15:3-4
 - Obedience to parents is serious and has societal ending ramifications.
- John Piper article, *Parents, Require Obedience of Your Children*
 - Two events prompted that article some 10 years ago
 - 13-year-old boy shot by police. Had gun...wouldn't obey police...toy
 - 7-year-old boy on plane with mother - mom did not require obedience to flight attendant. *She was training her child to be shot by the police.*
- How is respect for authority going in our society?
 - Isaiah 3:4-5, 12
 - As the family implodes so does society. Children must learn to obey as we are to stay in land

THE DUTY OF FATHERS

- Eph. 6:4
 - Fathers are the primary authority in the home and have the primary responsibility.
 - If fathers do not fulfill their duty, then society will be cursed.
 - Malachi 4:6 The OT ends with a promise and a warning
 - Any society, community or country becomes cursed where fathers fail.
 - The biggest problem in our society is men not loving their wives & leading their families. Fathers are to bring affection, structure and stability to the family.
 - When fathers don't love - hate spreads
 - When father don't discipline - chaos rules (the unruly have ripple effects)
 - When fathers are absent - families and society implode
- Fathers are to reign in their sinful tendency to be harsh. 6:4
 - Men are supposed to be tough/manly...but not sinfully so. (Sergeant Ogre)
 - Men must master their aggression (Gen. 4:7) and use tender affection with children
 - Fathers are warned not to provoke their children to anger. (ever present danger)
 - Fathers are to encourage not discourage. (are your children flowering or wilting?)
 - Col. 3:21
- Fathers are to educate not exasperate. 6:4
 - Husbands & fathers are to be the spiritual leaders & instructors in the home.
 - The father is to provide more than money. His responsibility is to provide...
 - *Discipline* Love is shown through proper discipline (Ps. 23:3-4)
 - Heb. 12:5-6 Prov. 13:24 Love requires obedience & teaches consequence
 - *Instruction*
 - Prov. 1:7-8 Gen. 18:19 Deut. 6:4-9
 - Psalm 78:1-8 One of saddest verses in the Bible - Judges 2:10-11
 - The two issues of FATHERS ENGAGING and CHILDREN OBEYING have either **SOCIETAL EXTENDING** or **SOCIETAL ENDING** ramifications.