



FAMILY IN FOCUS: A WORD TO CHILDREN

Ephesians 6:1-3

WHO IS BEING ADDRESSED?

Children – Those who are still under parental training.
If a child is still living in the home, this instruction still applies

WHAT IS THE EXPECTED RESPONSE?

To Obey “To hear and to heed.”

Not to backtalk nor to negotiate

“in the Lord” - as part of your life in Christ

SUBMIT VS. OBEY

Scripture often calls for a spirit of submission, where one “willingly lines up under the God-given authority of another.”

Mutual submission between spouses (Eph 5)

Wives in submission to spiritual leadership of the husband (Eph 5)

Citizens in submission to government (1 Peter 2)

IS SUBMISSION WHAT IS CALLED FOR HERE?

A spirit of submission, for sure, but the Greek word here is completely different. The word used in Eph 6:1 is the same word for the response of slaves to masters (6:5)

Hear it. Obey it.

NOTE TO PARENTS

- If obedience is God's expectation for our children, we must expect obedience of our children. Rebellion is not laughable.
- If obedience is God's expectation for our children, we must never ask nor demand anything of them that is contrary to God's word

IS A “WE MUST OBEY GOD RATHER THAN MEN” MOMENT EVER POSSIBLE?

Sure, but...

Cleaning your room doesn't violate a known law of God.

Nor does doing chores, picking up your dirty clothes, or helping with dishes. Nor does sharing your toys, going to bed at a decent hour nor getting up early.

Respecting your parents, working in the garden, doing your homework and obeying the first time you're told?

All good.



VS. 2-3

“Honor your Father and Mother...”

NOTE:

Obedience is an action; honor is an attitude of heart.

It's possible to do what we're told with a rebellious spirit. God is calling children everywhere to do what they're told with a pure heart.

“...that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

Doesn't that sound beautiful?