

Godly Children  
March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Children are integral to the story of the Bible – as inheritors of promise, full components of families, and examples of trusting faith and innocence.

- I. The responsibility of parents to raise children properly (Deuteronomy 6: 1 – 9)
- II. The responsibility of children to accept and embrace those efforts by their parents (Ephesians 6:1-3)
  - a. honor your Father and mother (what does that mean?) it's more than just obeying but treating them like important people with love & respect
  - b. commandment with a promise (what does that mean?) it's the first of the 10 Commandments that comes with a specific promise from God, there is a reward if you do this right
  - c. go well with you (what does that mean?) that God will help your life work out better, not perfect but much better than it would be if you did not obey
  - d. live long in the land (what does that mean?) when God first said this it was talking about the promised land, but for Christians the promised land is mainly about heaven, if your parents teach you about Jesus you can have eternal life in heaven
- III. While tension between generations is typical in history, that doesn't excuse hostility towards parents (Deuteronomy 27:16)
- IV. Recognize that parents instruction is not a burden or an enslavement, but instruction aimed at improvement (Proverbs 15:5)
- V. Your actions reflect on your parents (Proverbs 28:7)
- VI. Not just poor manners, but a definitive sin of great magnitude (2 Timothy 3:1-5)
- VII. Yet most of us are not children, so how is this relevant to us?
  - a. Disciples disrespected children, but Jesus valued them (Matt 19:13-15)
  - b. Examples for our trust and humility before God (Matt 18:1-5) and condemnation of anyone who would corrupt such a one (6-7)
- VIII. Christians as children in the family of God
  - a. God is our heavenly father (Matt 6: 9 -13) and the way he provides for us and protects us is analogous to how an earthly father cares for his children (Matt 7:7-11)
  - b. By obeying the Gospel we are adopted into His family (Romans 8:12-17)

Do we have the humility as children to respect and obey our parents? As adults to honor and provide for our elderly parents? As sinners, to humble ourselves and place total trust in God to provide, protect, and preserve?