



June 19, 2016  
Celebration | 9:00 am  
Elevation | 11:00 am  
Pastor David Mitchell

## The Making of a Good Family Life Ephesians 6:1-4

### Children are to obey and honor their parents. Ephesians 6:1-3

*“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.”*

- **Honor = Acts 28:10**
  - Because it pleases the Lord. *“in the Lord, for this is right.”*
  - Because it is a priority to God. *“which is the first commandment with a promise.”* Exodus 20:12
  - Because you will live well and longer that way. *“so that it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.”*
- **What makes a child desire to honor a parent? Proverbs teaches about honor.**
  - Pursue righteousness. Proverbs 21:21  
*“He who pursues righteousness and loyalty finds life, righteousness and honor.”*
  - Live in humility. Proverbs 22:4  
*“The reward of humility and the fear of the LORD are riches, honor and life.”*  
Proverbs 29:23 - A man’s pride will bring him low, but a humble spirit will obtain honor.
  - Guided by wisdom. Proverbs 3:35  
*“The wise will inherit honor, but fools display dishonor.”*
  - Express a spirit of grace. Proverbs 19:11  
*“A man’s discretion makes him slow to anger, and it is his glory to overlook a transgression.”*
  - Resolve conflicts. Proverbs 20:3  
*“Keeping away from strife is an honor for a man, but any fool will quarrel.”*
  - Live the Word without hypocrisy. Proverbs 26:1  
*“Like snow in summer and like rain in harvest, so honor is not fitting for a fool.”*

### Fathers (parents) are to never provoke their children to anger. Ephesians 6:4

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

*Read the Digging Deeper on the back for more biblical help.*

- **Because a parent’s role is to rear children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**
  - Use discipline. Hebrews 12:4-11 - Shape our heart and character for Christ.
  - Use instruction. 2 Timothy 3:14-17 - Shape our mind and thoughts for Christ.
  - Luke 2:52; Proverbs 7:1-3; Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Dear \_\_\_\_\_,

*I was so excited the day you were born, for I know there are great plans for your life. I love and value you for who you are because you were perfectly designed just the way I wanted you to be. On the day you were born, there was nothing I wanted to change. While I want to give you your freedom to grow and express yourself, I cannot help but closely watch over you and thoroughly enjoy how you are uniquely living out the gifts and passions that come from me.*

*There will never be a day that I do not love you. There is nothing you can do or say that will make me stop loving and caring for you. Even when you disobey, I may be disappointed, but I will still love every fiber of your body and soul. My desire and hope for you is to learn from those tough and challenges mistakes of life. And in those moments, I want you to know that I see you, I know the hurt that led you to those decisions and I know the hurt that comes as a result of those decisions. You don’t have to hide in shame with this. When you turn to me, you will find my arms wide open for you because I have never really left you, even if you felt alone. I really love to love you.*

*You are my beloved child and I am so thankful that I get to be your father.*

## Digging Deeper:

Paul is writing to a very different parenting culture than we live in today. Under the Roman culture, the father's power was absolute. He could sell his children as slaves or make them work the fields in chains. He could even inflict the death penalty on them. And this power extended over the whole life of that child. We have a letter from 1 B.C. from a man named Hilarion. He wrote the following to his wife after he traveled to Alexandria:

"Hilarion to Alis his wife heartiest greetings...Do not worry if when all others return I remain in Alexandria. I beg and beseech of you to take care of the little child, and, as soon as we receive wages, I will send them to you. If—good luck to you?—you have a child, if it is a boy, let it live; if it is a girl, throw it out."

Seneca, a philosopher from the first century wrote: "We strangle a mad dog; we; plunge the knife into sickly cattle let they taint the herd; children who are born weakly or deformed we drown."

Against such cruelty, Paul addresses Christian parents who are dealing with that culture. Parenting can fill our lives with the greatest joys and some of the deepest sorrows. Today's passage was the parenting class at Ephesus - short and to the point. The word "father" in Ephesians 6:4 can be translated as "parent" as it is in Hebrews 11:23 of Moses' parents. So this job of discipline and instruction can include both mom and dad.

## LifeGroup Discussion:

Reflect on the principles Paul models as the spiritual father of these "beloved children" in Corinth. Remember, the Corinthian believers were known for immaturity. **What are some ways that a child may be provoked to anger?**

- Overprotection
- Favoritism
- Pushing for achievement beyond reasonable limits
- Discouragement with no encouragement
- Feeling neglected and unwanted
- Conditional love
- Physical and emotional abuse

A good case study from Paul on how to avoid such a provocation to anger is found in I Corinthians 4:14-21.

Paul called these believers in Corinth "*my beloved children*." He viewed them as his spiritual children and wrote to encourage their growth. Read the passage and note the ways he cares for them and avoids provoking them to anger. These are principles that can apply to all parents.

**I Corinthians 4:14-21** - <sup>14</sup>I do not write these things to shame you, but to admonish you as my beloved children. <sup>15</sup>For if you were to have countless tutors in Christ, yet you would not have many fathers, for in Christ Jesus I became your father through the gospel. <sup>16</sup>Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me. <sup>17</sup>For this reason I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere in every church. <sup>18</sup>Now some have become arrogant, as though I were not coming to you. <sup>19</sup>But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant but their power. <sup>20</sup>For the kingdom of God does not consist in words but in power. <sup>21</sup>What do you desire? Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?"

**What principles do you see that show proper discipline and instruction while avoiding any provocation to anger?**

**Here are some to consider:**

- Never shame a child with criticism. "*I do not write these things to shame you*" (v.14)
- Communicate a child's great value to you. "*you as my beloved children*" "*Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord*" (vs. 14, 17)
- Set clear standards of right and wrong. "*he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ, just as I teach everywhere*" (vs. 14-17)
- Model the standards for your children so they imitate you. "*Therefore I exhort you, be imitators of me*" (v.16)
- Use spiritual mentors for your children to reinforce your values. "*I have sent to you Timothy, who is my beloved and faithful child in the Lord, and he will remind you of my ways which are in Christ*" (v.17)
- Discipline firmly when rebellion is intentional. "*Now some have become arrogant... Shall I come to you with a rod, or with love and a spirit of gentleness?*" (v.18-21)

## Next Steps:

1. **Come to the Discover Jesus class to help you discover how to live and love like Jesus.** This class will help you grow in your faith through discipleship. Join us on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm in the Lobby. [calvarylife.org/discover](http://calvarylife.org/discover)
2. **Invest in your children by growing together spiritually as a family.** Calvary's Family Ministries provides many opportunities for your children to connect with others, and for you to serve with your kids.
  - Pick up the summer calendars for Children's + Student Ministries at Connection Point Central to find events your kids can join and connect with others.
  - Invest in your relationship with your kids by serving alongside them and helping raise up the next generation of children to know and love the Lord. For ways to get involved, contact Calvary Town at 714.550.2348 or email [town@calvarylife.org](mailto:town@calvarylife.org)