**Relationships in the Home – Children to Parent**

The responsibility of parents to train and nourish their children is often stressed in the relationship. However, the reversal of that relationship is often neglected. Different passages teach the duties of obedience, honoring, and the reward that God promised the faithful child.

***“Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right”*** (Ephesians 6:1). The meaning of obey or obedience is to submit in a willing way. Children must learn that they cannot do whatever they please. The pattern of following rules should be established early in life. Disobedient children grow up to become disobedient adults!! ***“Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.”*** (Colossians 3:20). The only limitation is if the parents require their child to disobey God. God instance, if a parent requires their child to lie or steal, he/she must obey God instead of their parents. In most cases parents do not want their child to violate God’s word. God has given the child the role of obeying.

It is nit because parents are perfect and always right. There will be times when Mom and Dad are mistaken in areas of judgement. At this time the family should study together to find the truth. To disobey one’s parents is to rebel against the Lord. ***‘Honor your father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise.”*** (Ephesians 6:2). To honor means more than obeying or submitting. It literally means to place the proper value. As we place a value on a car, so we honor its worth. As we look at our parents, we must learn to appreciate them for their true worth. Most parents have sacrifices greatly for their children. The cost of rearing a child is great and a child has no way of comprehending that aspect. Yet the child at an early age should realize the love of his/her parents. One of the greatest blessings any child will ever have is parents that truly love them. Later in life the child will understand more about the sacrifices and even appreciate the parents more.

Jesus in teaching about the commandments of Moses to honor mother and father showed how far reaching the application can be. ***“For Moses said “Honor thy father and mother’; and ‘He who curse father and mother, let him be put to death.’ But you say, ‘If a man says to his father or mother, what ever profit you might have received from me is Corban’ – ‘that is, dedicated to the temple’; and you no longer let him do anything for his father of his mother, making the word of God of no effect through your traditions which you have handed down,*** (Mark 7:10,13a). Implied is aiding one’s parents is part of honoring them. Some children consider having aged parents a nuisance. Older parents need physical and financial help. Children are God’s method of Social Security. Any child that can not find enough compassion to help his parents will never have enough compassion to please God. One day we will be older and will rely on our children. The manner they treat us will be based of how we treat our parents.

***“That it may be well with you and you will live well on this earth”*** (Ephesians 6:3). All things being equal a disciplined child will live a longer and happier life than a rebellious child. I believe that this is what the verse is saying. Some bad children will live long a long life and some good children will die young. Yet the general rule still applies. Under the Law of Moses, a rebellious child was stoned. It is easy to see the connection of one’s life span and obedience in their parents, high chair and some will learn obedience in the electric chair.

As children we need to acknowledge and fulfill our obligation to our parents. In doing we are obeying God. D. T.