He didn't even remember why, but he had an argument with his mom and  was very upset with tears on his eyes. The little boy firmly and frankly  told her he was leaving home. He was crying and packing his stuff into his dad’s leather bag. When he was at the door, he suddenly realized that he had nowhere to go and it was almost dinner time. At that moment, his mom was passing by and he asked her, “Mom, do you think I ***have*** to leave you now or can I still stay for a little while?” She said he could stay home. So, he was happy and went to unpack his bag ( [© Leeo43 / Pikabu](https://pikabu.ru/story/detskie_obidyi_ili_mamadiplomat_7551334) ). A lot of us have stories like that, don’t we?

Parenting is TOUGH. It is one of THE most important tasks in the world. It is challenging and rewarding. It’ll make you laugh and make you cry. You wonder if you’re doing it right. Grand–parenting is JUST as important, ya’ll. Aren’t you glad that, since babies don’t come with an instruction manual, God gave us the Bible? Amen, me , too! I am glad he gave us the Holy Spirit of Jesus to ALWAYS be with us to help and encourage and guide us. This is just ONE of the reasons the Bible is SO important for us and for everyone else, too.

I like to go through books of the Bible. That keeps me from riding my ‘hobby horses’ too much. It also exposes us to the whole counsel of God. We don’t practice what one of my professors jokingly, but NOT SO jokingly called “jack-rabbit exegesis.” Jack-rabbit exegesis is where the preacher runs from what he doesn’t like and hops right on over the hard parts. We need to ‘chew on the meat of the word.’ As one of my old buddies used to say, “It’ll do you good and help you too!”

You will remember that we said that this whole section flows out from Eph 5.18, that talks about being continuously filled with the Spirit. We noted that Paul used a group of participles (YES! We LOOOVE our grammar up in here!). Paul used these participles to picture what life in the Spirit looks like. See verse 5.19-20.

Then, in verse 21, Paul says, “*submitting to one another in the fear of Christ*.” This participle, ***submitting***,is the golden link that ties all this together. Submitting grows out of living in the Spirit. Submitting forms the BASIS for the instructions that Paul gives to these three groups - wives and husbands, children and parents, slaves and masters.

We observed that there is a special word that is important in each of the six sets of instructions. Here they are for the two from last week and two for this week : wives—***submit***; husbands—***love***; children—***obey*** and fathers—***don’t***. But it is all based on this mutual submission that is empowered by the filling of God’s Holy Spirit.

A lady said, “One of the things my husband complains about to my daughter is her messy room. And I tell him it’s pointless to tell her that, because our bedroom is the same. Now, my daughter and I have an experiment — every day, she and I clean up our rooms. When I watch her, I realize that many of the bad qualities I see in her, she got from me or she got because I didn’t pay enough attention to her”  ( [© marionnellita /Livejournal](https://evo-lutio.livejournal.com/238875.html?thread=30378523#t30378523) ). Folks, we are parenting (or grand-parenting) ALL the time.

Studies say . . . and since I am saying “studies say,” it MUST be true, right? Studies tell us that ***most of a child’s character is formed by the time they go to first grade***. It is a combination of DNA and home-life. Parenting is important from **DAY ONE**!

One lady said, “When I was pregnant with my oldest son, I was reading through some old *Reader’s Digest* magazines and came across one of those cute, funny stories used as a place-filler at the end of an article. “We bought a new kitten. The first day we had her at home, she started sharpening her claws on the side of the couch—as kittens do—so my dad picked her up and put her outside. 15 years later, she still claws the side of the couch every time she wants to go out.” This story is my guiding beacon as a parent. **Every moment of every day, you are teaching your children something**. With every single thing you say, do, or don’t do, you are teaching your children what they should say, do, and not do. The trick, as a parent, is not to teach your children the right things; the trick is to know what you’re teaching them. If your children overhear you telling your friend how much you hate Susan’s new haircut, and then they hear you telling Susan you love her hair, you might think you’re teaching them the value of being kind to people, even if it involves a little white lie. But what you may actually be teaching your children is that: It’s okay to talk about people behind their back.

If you tell your child to clean up his/her room, and when they ask why, you yell: “Because I’m your mother and I said to do it!” But what you may actually be teaching your children is that: It’s okay to yell at people if they don’t do what you say. Children are our reflections. Don’t try to change them. Change yourself” ( [© Jo Eberhardt / Quora](https://www.quora.com/Whats-the-best-parenting-advice/answer/Jo-Eberhardt) ).

Our two big sections for today’s message will be, surprise, Offspring and Parenting.

**I. TO THE OFFSPRING (6.1-3)**

  Here we will see actions, attitudes and achievement.

 A. Actions - *obey* (1)

 Bible teacher William Telford said, “The fundamental duty of all chil- dren is to obey their parents. Whether the children are Christians or whether the parents are Christians does not make any difference. This parent-child relationship was ordained by God for all mankind— not for believers only.

* It is Simple Obedience—“*Children obey*”
* It is Specific Obedience—“*Your parents*”
* It is Spiritual Obedience—“*in the Lord*”
* It is Summary Obedience—“*For this is right*.” “

Once upon a time, there was a girl whose name was Dayane. She was very disobedient and never listened to her mother. Whenever her mother said something to her, she did the exact opposite. Her mother was so upset seeing her daughter this reckless and disobedient. Whenever Dayane’s mother tried to talk to her about her rude behavior, she said, “I am an independent girl and can do anything I want. I do not have to listen to you.”

But Dayane’s mother was always worried about her and could not find a way to make her listen to her. She was always scared that her young daughter would get into trouble because of her disobedient nature. Every time she made a mistake, Dayane’s mother scolded her. But she kept doing the same thing without thinking about the consequences. Diane's mother tried to give her advice too.

One day, Dayane woke up early. Her mother saw her awake and asked her to sit on a wooden chair. Dayane, as always, did not want to sit on that chair. So, Dayane’s mother told her to take another chair and sit on it. But Dayane said, “No. I would not sit on another chair.” Dayane sat on a different chair, not caring about what her mother said. After she sat on that chair, the chair broke. Dayane immediately fell from that chair. Her mother saw Dayne falling. She said from behind. “I told you to sit on another chair.” After that, she started laughing.

But Dayane was hurt to see her mother laughing at her. She was a bit angry too. Her mother understood her and came closer to her. She said, “See, my dear daughter, do not get angry. I do not ask you to do things because I want to torture or dominate you. I tell you to obey me because of your good. If you had listened to me and sat on the chair I asked you to, you would not have fallen.”

Dayane looked at her mother with teary eyes. But she stayed silent. “I love you so much, Dayane. I am laughing at you because I forbade you to sit on that chair, but you did not take my warning seriously and fell. Obeying someone is a good characteristic. It is not a curse. Obedience is good because now, I am showing my love to you, and by listening to me, you are showing your love to me. If you do not listen to me, how am I supposed to know whether you love me or not?”

( https://www.vedantu.com/stories/dayane-the-disobedient-girl )

 B. Attitude - *honor* (2)

 C. Achievement - *so that* … (3)

 1. Prosperity - *it may go well with you*

 2. Longevity - *you may have along life*

**II.  TO THOSE PARENTING (4)**

  We will see a negative instruction as well as a positive.

 A. A negative – *Don’t*

A man said, “My kid is 9 and he goes to school and all of his other classes by himself. His teachers often call me to tell me that my child is too small to travel to school alone. In winter, my kid wanted to live at a sports camp in a tent for one month. I let him but people criticized my decision. I think that I’m raising a future man and my job is to raise a loving and strong person, someone who can protect himself and his family”[( © greencloudlet / Livejournal](https://elina-ellis.livejournal.com/108220.html?thread=4882620#t4882620) )

B. A positive – *bring them up*

Someone said, “My friend’s 11-year-old son comes running up to us, visibly upset with simmering anger, verging on tears. He blurts out, “Mom, (\*\*insert name of sibling\*\*) is being really mean to me, and will not share. She won’t let me get on the computer!!” My friend calmly turns to her son, looks him in the eye, and evenly states, “Well you know the 3 choices: 1. Do you want to choose to solve this on your own? 2. Do you want to choose to have me come over and intervene? or 3. Do you want to choose to walk away?” And with that, her son walks off not totally happy, but resolved with his decision on how to handle this stressful situation. With those 3 clear and parent-directed choices, my friend has told her son he has some power over this situation, she has empowered him to figure out what he wants to do, and she has given him tools to fix or avoid further antagonizing the situation with his sister” ( [© Carla Attenborough / Quora](https://www.quora.com/What-are-some-good-parenting-hacks/answer/Carla-Attenborough) ).

 1. *In the training of the Lord*

 2. *In the instruction of the Lord*

A man said, “I used to work with a guy who had 2 kids and he would make them work to earn money for things they wanted. For example, if his 12-year-old son wanted an Xbox for his birthday the guy would make a deal with him. He would give the kid half the money for the Xbox then they would devise a bunch of “jobs” the kid could do, working at minimum wage, to earn the rest. So the kid would paint the storage shed and clean out the attic, stuff like that. The kid learned a sense of accomplishment and cared more for his stuff because he had to work for it and the dad got to teach his kid about earning his way in the world” ( [© kane55 / Quora](https://www.reddit.com/r/AskReddit/comments/5vze9u/whats_the_best_example_of_good_parenting_youve/de6g3gb/) )

The Bible tells us, “*Start a youth out on his way; even when he grows old he will not depart from it*” (Pro 22:6, CSB). The key thing is “*on* ***HIS*** *way*.” **No** cookie-cutter stuff here. Every child is different. Each one has “*his way*.” We direct each one along the path the Lord has for them. NOT the way of the world. NOT then path of least resistance. Not what is ‘politically correct.’ Not according societal mores. But according to the word of God and the heart off the child. What a glorious opportunity, what a grand responsibility.

Children, obey your parents in the Lord. Parents, don’t exasperate your children; bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Grands, Let’s DO IT!