



Family Focused Forum

May 2009: My Role In the Home, Part 2: Children

Introduction: Last month's lesson examined the role of parents in the home. Parents are instructors, counselors, doctors, referees, and much more. This month, we will focus on the roles and responsibilities of children in the home. While it is obvious that there can be no children without parents, have you ever stopped to realize that there could be no parents without children? Children are a blessing from God. They are a source of joy and entertainment. They are servants, doing everything from getting the remote control to fixing a glass of water to cutting the yard and pulling weeds. While a child may be in a rush to become an adult, he/she must realize that they have some God given responsibilities while they are yet children. Additionally, these God-given roles and responsibilities do not all end once a child is "grown and gone."

Discuss why people have children?

Lesson: *Read the lesson scripture: Ephesians 6:1-3.*

Children are instructed to obey their parents. The word *obey* literally means "to hear under." A child is to hear as one who is under the authority of their parents. As a child, obedience to your parents is your obligation to God. Your obedience is reflective of the fact that you live your life in submission to the word of God. This command transcends time. Children in 2009 are just as obligated to obey their parents as children were in the first century.

The second command is that children should honor their parents. Partly, this means speaking well of them and politely to them. It also means acting in a way that shows them courtesy and respect. However, it means more than just respect them. Children are to realize the value of their parents, and respond accordingly. It does not take long to realize how valuable parents are. Just think about all the things that they have done for you that they did not have to do. They have made sacrifices, spent money, and provided more than enough to fulfill your needs. Parents are priceless. When children realize the value of their parents, it transforms that way that they behave. Part of that transformation involves children blessing their parents. When a child honors mother and father he/she will demonstrate that honor monetarily. God expects children to give back to their parents. (1 Timothy 5:4) Parents have a special place in God's sight. Even those who find it difficult to get along with their parents are still commanded to honor them.

Finally, even children can be positive examples of how one is to live the Christian life. Timothy was a young man, but was told to earn the respect of his elders by setting an example in his speech, life, love, faith, and purity. Regardless of your age, God can use you. Whether you are young or old, don't think of your age as a disability. Live so others can see Christ in you.

Discuss other ways that children can honor their parents. What else should children do to please God? How can parents instill these values in their children?

Family Challenge: Do something this month to bless your parents. If your parents are no longer living, do something for an elderly relative, neighbor or church member.

*Family Focused Forums are provided courtesy of the Family & Youth Ministry of the
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