

## God's Plan for Children

Text: Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20

Introduction:

- A. There is a tendency in our age to excuse young people and children for their misbehavior and to blame to their parents.
- B. But God holds each person responsible for his own actions.- Ezekiel 18:20
- C. What are the responsibilities of children to their parents?
- I. OBEY - Ephesians 6:1; Proverbs 1:8-9; 15:5; 23:22; Luke 2:51
  - A. Why should children obey their parents?
    - 1. It is right. - Ephesians 6:1
    - 2. It is well-pleasing to the Lord. - Colossians 3:20; cf. Deuteronomy 21:18-21
  - B. What limits are there to the children's responsibility to obey their parents?
    - 1. "in all things" - Colossians 3:20
    - 2. "in the Lord" - Ephesians 6:1; cf. Acts 5:29
- II. HONOR - Ephesians 6:2-3
  - A. Why should children honor their parents? - Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3  
*(The obedience of childhood rendered to a wise Christian rule forms in the young the habit of self-control, self-respect, diligence, promptitude, faithfulness, and kindness of heart, which are the best guarantees for happiness and success in life. - David Lipscomb)*
  - B. How do children honor their parents?
    - 1. by being respectful in words and actions - Leviticus 19:32
    - 2. by being helpful - 1 Samuel 17:12-15,34-35; cf. Matthew 13:55 with Mark 6:3
    - 3. by living in such a way as to reflect honor upon them - Luke 15:18-19
    - 4. by providing .or their needs when they cannot - Exodus 20:12; Mark 7:9-13; 1 Timothy 5:3-4,16; e.g., Genesis 45:9-13,23; 46:29; 47:11-12; 49:28 - 50:14; John 19:26-27

Conclusion:

*A dutiful child secures the blessings of God, both here and hereafter. Obedience practiced in the home forms habits of promptitude, self-control and self-respect which are important conditions of success and prosperity. Even though it is a child's duty to obey, God, in his goodness, attaches a special blessing to every act of unselfish obedience. (Edgar J. Dye)*