

Children Must Learn to Be Obedient

Colossians 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.

Right from the top, note the requirement of two things:

First: Children have to be taught to be obedient to their parents.

Secondly: Children have to desire to please the Lord.

The first depends on the parents teaching while the second depends on the children's own volitional decision which must be made every day. And remember, parents, by nature they do not want to be obedient—this is your responsibility, your challenge.

Colossians 3:20 Children, be obedient to your parents in all things,...

Do you see it? This is where all obedience starts—in the home. We have been studying in Colossians 3, the imperatives of the Christian life.

Put on Christ—love as He loves Where do we learn to submit to authority in our lives? By God's design, in the home. If children do not learn to submit at home, they just might have to learn the hard way. Some in military, some in prison.

Oh, parent I pray that you will learn from the Scriptures how important your responsibilities are to your children. Unfortunately, many parents today put themselves first, what they want is more important than their

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children. Listen, they did not ask to be born. You made that decision. And if you have never been told before, listen now. Once you bring a child into this world, he/she becomes a top priority in your life. Don't leave it up to the school or the church or the streets to teach your children. This is your responsibility. This is your challenge. This is your joy!

Where does the woman who marries learn to submit to her husband? She should have learned it at home—submitting to the authority of her parents. Where does the man learn to proper use of authority? He should have learned it at home.

Colossians 3:20 is about authority! About being taught about authority. And while we are at it, verse 21 is about authority.

**Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not exasperate
your children, so that they will not lose heart.**

Authority

1. Definition: Authority is the legal power authorized by God under the laws of divine establishment whereby certain members of the human race have jurisdiction and responsibility over and for others. The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience. Authority exists in both the temporal and spiritual realms of life.
2. Everyone starts out under authority of their parents, by God's design. This means that every boy and girl start out under the authority of his/her mother and father. It is difficult to grasp the importance of what we are taught at home as children.

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3. Authority and the original fall in the garden of Eden by Adam and Eve. Eve, the woman, the wife, fell because she rejected authority. She fell under two categories of authority, one was spiritual and the other temporal. The spiritual category was the authority of the Words of Jesus Christ—do not eat of this tree. The temporal category was the authority of Adam who was the divinely commissioned ruler of the world, and therefore was her ruler. Satan will become the ruler of the world after Adam and Eve are evicted from the garden of Eden. And the woman will come under the authority of her husband by the decrees of Jesus Christ in Genesis chapter 3. The woman has authority over her children—boys and girls. She is to use this authority to teach her children about authority. How to submit to authority and how to properly use authority.

4. Unfortunately, few people today understand authority. Little girls are being taught to be feminist and to reject authority, especially the authority of a man. Little boys are being taught to be passive and submissive. Therefore over 50% of our marriages end in divorce. More and more little boys and girls are taught that it is best to be homosexual—not show judgment in regards to sex. What Satan has done in his cosmic system is to break down divine institution number one—volition and divine institution number two marriage and divine institution number three, family. His objective is to end divine institution number four—nationalism, so that he can rule under globalization, which draws us closer to the rapture and the last seven years promised to Israel.

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5. There are seven areas of authority in life established by God under the laws of divine institutions.

(1) God's authority which is expressed today by way of His Word. *Sola Scripture*. Therefore, there is a mass movement to reject the authority of the Scripture, even by many pastors. His authority is stated in His Word, not dreams, trances, visits from angels (Mormons and Muslims); not visions; personal views, philosophies of man etc. Nothing but the completed cannon of Scripture.

(2) Authority of the local church is invested in the pastor-teacher by the head of the Church, Jesus Christ, not in some board of elders or deacons. And for this reason, multitudes are leaving the local church where they refuse to sit under the authority of a pastor-teacher but do their own studies that agree with the way they want things to be done. America is infiltrated by a multitude of sects and movements outside of the local church. It is no surprise that America is in the sinful condition that it is in. For example, multitudes do not agree with biblical teaching on homosexuality. So they leave the church and find a pastor who teaches contrary to the Word of God that homosexuality is OK before God. Then, of course, there are the Chrislam churches which sees no difference between the God of Christianity and the false god Allah. The Authority of the Word of God is under siege today throughout the whole world. Setting up the atmosphere for globalization: One Government, One Religion which is not Christianity.

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- (3) Then, of course, there is the divinely designated authorities of the divine institutions. Each divine institution has its designated authority. In divine institution # 1, the authority is individual volition. Here is where the conflict begins. Each individual has volition to submit, obey or rebel. This begins at home with the children being taught to control their own volition. Then in divine institution # 2, marriage, where the husband is in authority. Divine institution # 3, the one we are currently studying, is the family where the authority is given to the parents. But as we will see, this authority comes with responsibility to teach and train your children the proper use of their own volition. Here the woman is in the place of authority over her male and female children. She is the authority-teacher of her children. She and her husband are to teach the male child how to use authority and the female child how to submit to authority. When children begin to run the parents, great suffering is in store for all concerned and for society itself. Under divine institution # 4 various categories of authority are set up from the judge to the local policeman.
- (4) Authority in Academics where the teacher should be the full authority. God help the child whose parents take their side over that of the teacher. When a parent does this, they are not showing love for their children. They are in effect doing harm to the child, whether little boys or girls. This does not mean that the teacher is always right; far from it. But no human category of authority is always right. But we must learn to submit even when the authority is wrong. Teaching children

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that they have the right to rebel when authority is wrong is leading to anarchy. The husband will not always be right, the parents will not always be right, the policeman will not always be right, the teacher will not always be right. But we must submit to authority even when it is wrong. Yes, there may come a time when we have to rebel. But, as we saw under major point 4 under the subjection of the wife to the husband, this must be with restraint and requires sound wisdom.

- (5) Athletics! This one has been in existence for centuries. The coach and manager are in authority. In ancient civilizations this was more important than education. Here the young boy and girl learn to submit to authority whether they agree or disagree. The importance of this area of authority is that it is for the team, not for the individual.
- (6) Authority in business, where the executive or boss is in authority. Again, they may not be right, but they are the boss. Some people never make it in the business world and end up on government welfare, simply because they refuse to submit to the authority of a boss, because they think they are smarter than the boss or know more than the boss or are just too arrogant to submit. They were not taught at home to be submissive. I hope you parents realize just how important your teaching authority is to that child.
- (7) Finally, yet another fundamental area of authority is in the military. Again, one of the oldest places where people learn authority if they did not learn it at home. Here you have no

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right to decide to submit or not...either you submit or you are in severe trouble and suffering. It is in this area of authority that our freedom is purchased and maintained.

In Colossians 3:20 we come to the basic area of human authority: parents! Parents represent authority to the child. The child learns about authority from the parents.

Children. boy or girl; I know this starts off with the children but in effect it is about the parents.

- (1) As to defining an age, this varies with different cultures and societies, but generally between birth and 18 or 21 but applies to anyone still living at their parents' home. Age is not the issue in this Greek word. So often as a young person enters their late teens, they become rather rebellious against their parents' authority and they reach a point where they think they are in control of their own lives.
- (2) But both they and their parents need to understand that as long as you live in their house you are under their authority. As long as you live under their roof you are under their rank and they are in authority of their own homes.
- (3) Under the laws of divine establishment the basic authority in life is the parents. It is the basic authority for it is here that most children first learn of authority: how to submit and who is to use authority. It is the responsibility of the parent to teach and train their children in regards to authority in life. Failure on the part of

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the parent often comes back to haunt them as their children grow and become rebellious.

- (4) Parents are not only responsible for food, shelter, clothing but they are also responsible for training of children, from brushing their teeth to respect of authority, how to speak, how to pray to God, how to speak to adults, etc.
- (5) And to know about Jesus Christ and what He has done for them, and Bible stories.
- (6) It is the responsibility of the parent to teach them about Jesus Christ and about authority. About freedom—how to use and enjoy freedom and the relationship between freedom and authority. About privacy and private property, and they begin by learning these things in their own home environment. As they grow, they should be trained in respect of privacy and property—their own property and the responsibilities that accompanies property. They lose or break their property, they do without for a while. Parents are designed by God to teach and train their children to be responsible. To be citizens of benefit their country and Christians glorifying Jesus Christ.
- (7) Parents, it is your responsibility to teach your children about authority. Respect of the property and rights and privacy of others, of their family and their friends.
- (8) A very important principle for you parents: Your children often learn more from observation than they do by lectures. You lecture them on the privacy of others, and they hear you gossiping and

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maligning some other member of the family or church. You lecture them on respect of authority, and they hear you running down the pastor or the policeman or the teacher. Parent, which do you think is going to leave an impact on their training: your lecture or your practice? Think about it parents: when you do this you destroy the principle of authority on several levels. First, your own authority—that you teach one thing and live another. Then the principle of respect for others. Being a parent comes with great responsibilities. You have to *think* all the time, what you are saying and what you are doing. If you run down the pastor or their teachers in school, you run down your children's respect of their authority at church and school.

- (9) Then, of course parents, there is respect for law and order in their community, school etc. Respect for the authority in their country, policeman, judges etc.
- (10) And to me the most important of all is the evangelization of your children. It is a wonderful heritage that your children are saved at home! It is a wonderful privilege of the parent to lead their own children to faith in Jesus Christ and give them a hunger for the word of God. Please don't depend on someone else to teach your children the gospel. This is taught in:

Deuteronomy 6:6 “These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. (It starts with you)

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Deuteronomy 6:7 “You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Deuteronomy 6:8 “You shall bind them as a sign on your hand and they shall be as frontals on your forehead.

Deuteronomy 6:9 “You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

What this passage is saying is that you share with your children how important God and Jesus Christ and His Word are to you. How He brought their parents together, how He provides and how thankful you are—daily. Use Bible stories to teach them things in life, like when your child chooses the biggest plate of ice cream. Oh, you are like Lot choosing the bigger piece of land but how Abraham received what God desired for him.

Oh, parents it is a privilege to be the first to tell your children about Jesus, about Bible stories. To teach your children about sex, about respect for their own bodies. Proper teaching here will make it easy to teach them the dangers of tobacco, alcohol, drugs being promiscuous etc It is about the care of their own bodies before the Lord.

Children be obedient to your parents *Present Active Imperative* of the Greek verb *hupakouo* which is one of several Greek words for obedience.

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Our word is a compound verb made up of the prefix *hupo* meaning ‘under’ plus *akouo* meaning ‘to listen to:’ to listen under the authority of someone and it means to obey. Understanding this verb is more important for the parents: to understand what they are to be teaching their children. A good place to grasp this word is in

Rom. 6:16 Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, you are slaves of the one whom you obey, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness?

Learn from this that when you sin, it is a volitional choice—you make a decision to obey your flesh nature or you make a decision to submit to the Holy Spirit. When you obey your flesh nature—sin; but when you submit to the Holy Spirit—righteousness. And parents it is your responsibility to teach your children to control their volition and not submit to their flesh nature. Eph. 6:1; 1 Peter 3:6.

Another word for obedience or submission to authority is *hupotage* used of walking or living by faith in Holy Spirit.

2 Cor. 9:13 Because of the proof given by this ministry, they will glorify God for *your* obedience to your confession of the gospel of **Christ (they lived by faith as those who were saved by faith, not by works) **and for the****

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liberality of your contribution to them and to all, (giving of offerings. Gal. 2:5; 1 Tim. 2:11)

Another word for submitting is *hupotaso* which we studied in Colossians 3:19 where the wife is to submit to her husband. Eph. 5:22; James 4:17; 1 Peter 5:5.

Another Greek word is *peitho* this word has different meanings in the verb form, depending on the context and includes to obey. Gal. 5:7; In Hebrews 13:17 it refers to the authority of the Pastor-Teacher:

Hebrews 13:17 Obey your leaders (in context this refers to the pastor teacher) **and submit** (our word) ***to them, for they keep watch over your souls as those who will give an account.*** (To Jesus Christ, as head of the church) **Let them do this with joy and not with grief, for this would be unprofitable for you.**

(Colossians 3:20) ...**Children keep on obeying your parents.** You see, parents, it is not so much about you as it is about their learning to respect all authorities in life. But, it starts with you. And again, we have the very important principle: *it does not matter if the parents are right or wrong or fair or unfair.* They must be trained to keep on obeying their parents. You see people, sometimes it seems as if God is unfair, or even wrong by our estimation. But we keep on trusting Him and we keep on obeying His commandment of faith in His Spirit. Where should you first learn this vital lesson? At home of course, from your loving parents, who loved you so much they taught you and trained you to submit to God's

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authority in your life. And as your children grow older, perhaps have children of their own, then they will love you and be thankful for you in a way you can never buy with money.

Children keep on obeying your parents in all things. Uh Oh! Does the Holy Spirit really mean *in all things*? Trust me, the Holy Spirit makes no mistakes, He knows exactly what He is saying.

1. This means in all areas of teaching on authority.
2. This means when he feels his parents are wrong or unfair, he still to obey.
3. This means ‘at all times.’ There will be times when your children will simply not want to obey. This is your responsibility to train them to obey even when they do not want to obey. It may mean their very lives!!! Someone may have just walked into a restaurant with a drawn weapon; and you say, ‘down to the floor, now’! This means as to hygiene; dress, hair, proper clothing for different events. At all times!
4. This means when he does not understand why. Parents, this will be so important in their Spiritual lives. Often, we do not understand what or why God is doing something, but we continue to trust Him.

Therefore, the last phrase: **for this is well-pleasing to the Lord.**

for this. Of course, this refers to obeying their parents in all areas.

Is. This keeps on being.

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well-pleasing. This is one word in the Greek. It is a compound adjective made up of a prefix meaning *well* plus a word meaning *to please*. We translate it *well-pleasing*.

First, we have to be taught what is well pleasing to the Lord.

Ephesians 5:10 trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

Do you see it parents? We don't know what is pleasing to the Lord. We have to be taught and this, dear parent, starts with you. You have the blessed, wonderful opportunity to teach and train your children what is pleasing to the Lord.

We have to be taught to live our lives pleasing to the Lord and this starts with desiring to please our parents. Remember, parents, your children do not desire to please you or the Lord in their flesh nature. It is up to you to teach them to desire to please the Lord.

You want to train your child to give to the Lord? Well, don't teach them to tithe. Teach them to give what is well pleasing to the Lord.

Philippians 4:18 But I have received everything in full (financial support) and have an abundance; I am amply supplied, having received from Epaphroditus what you have sent, (1) a fragrant aroma, (2) an acceptable sacrifice, (3) well-pleasing to God

Teach your children, it is not the amount so much as it is the need, and how God has prospered you. You want to know what makes a little boy

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happy? When he gives his mother something she loves. She appreciates and tells him so. It may be just flowers from her own garden. It may be a poorly handmade valentine. But he is learning to think of the person to whom he is giving. Not about the amount, not about praise to him but about pleasing the Lord even in his giving. Teaching, training your child in the area of giving will have remarkable benefits throughout their lives. Teach them to pray, to give, to attend Bible study at the church; to sing, to love one another.

Great is the responsibility of the parents

Great is the blessing that comes to the parent who perseveres in their teaching and training of their children.

Blessed are the children who are taught by their parents.