

INTRODUCTION.

TODAY, ~ CONTINUE OUR STUDY ~ OF THE PRECEPTS FOR RELATIONSHIPS ~ that Paul lays out for us ~ in Col. 3:18 - 4:1.

▶▶ TPID, ~ general rules ~ governing relationships ~ between various groups.

▶▶ And as everyone, ~ I think, ~ is aware ~ that we've been jumping back and forth with Ephesians.

▶▶ In general, ~~ wife/husband, ~~ husband/wife.

▶▶ Today, ~ precepts for children and parents.

▶▶ Again, ~ jumping back and forth.

JUST SOME INITIAL WORDS ~ BEFORE WE DIG IN.

▶▶ Now, ~ I believe all of us here ~ have already raised our children.

▷▷ So do Paul's words here apply to us?

▶▶ Yes, ~ because ~ we can ~ lovingly ~ graciously, ~ and wisely ~ ¶¶

▷▷ guide our adult children ~ to raise their children ~ according to God's word.

▷▷ Emphasis there on ~ "lovingly, ~ graciously, ~ and wisely." ¶¶ 1/16

↪↪ Caution in approaching this.

→→ Prov. 15:1 (NLT). ⇔⇔ A gentle answer ~ deflects anger, ~ but ~ harsh words ~ make tempers flare.

▶▶ But ~ we can also lend a hand ~ and gently teach our grandchildren directly ~ that ~ they are to obey ~ their parents.

▷▷ And that's one of the reasons ~ we, ~ believers, ~ need to have ~ ¶¶

↪↪ a good relationship ~ with our grandchildren. ⇔⇔ Positive influence

▶▶ And there are other applications for us here as well.

▷▷ Point out as we go.

▶▶ So yes, ~ what Paul has to say ~ to children ~ and to parents ~ is for us.

LET'S NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION ~ TO THE PRECEPTS FOR CHILDREN.

TWO PRELIMINARY NOTES HERE.

▶▶ 1st, ~ it is implied ~ that these children ~ are old enough ~ to understand ~ what Paul is saying.

▷▷ We see this, ~ because Paul addresses children directly, ~ and not ~ through their parents.

▷▷ By one estimate, ~ the age range ~ Paul has in view here ~ is ~ of the children ~ ¶¶

↪↪ from early elementary ~ to ~ the late teen years ~ or ~ early twenties. ¶¶ 2/16

▶▶ And the 2nd ~ preliminary note.

▷▷ While these commands in and of themselves would, ~ of course, ~ ¶¶

↪↪ apply to very young ~ and also non-believing ~ children, ~ ¶¶

→→ the context indicates ~ that Paul specifically ~ has children who are believers ~ in view.

↪↪ This will become clear ~ when we look at ~ Eph. 6:1b.

OK, ~ PRECEPT #1 ~ FOR BELIEVING CHILDREN.

IN BOTH ~ COL. 3:20a ~ AND EPH. 6:1a, ~ PAUL SAYS, ~ CHILDREN, ~ OBEY ~ YOUR parents.

▶▶ Instead of using the word "submit" ~ as he did ~ of the relationship of a wife to her husband, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ Paul uses the common word for ~ "obey."

▷▷ "Submit" ~ is not strong enough ~ to express the unquestioning compliance ~ ¶¶

↪↪ expected from children ~ toward their parents.

▶▶ The Pentateuch ~ warns of the danger ~ of having ~ ¶¶

▷▷ a stubborn and rebellious son ~ who does not obey his father and mother ~ ¶¶

↪↪ and will not listen to them ~ when they discipline him (Deut. 21:18). ¶¶ 3/16

IT IS ~ THE GOD-GIVEN DUTY ~ OF PARENTS ~ ¶¶

▶▶ to set boundaries for their children ~ and ~ to expect them to obey.

▷▷ Oh, ~ that flies in the face of the culture in which we live.

▶▶ Failure ~ to set boundaries and expect obedience ~ results ~ ¶¶

▷▷ in the Lord's displeasure ~ and leads ~ to children ~ who rebel against the Lord.

▶▶ God revealed to the priest Eli ~ through Samuel the prophet ~ that ~ he would judge Eli's family ~ because ~ ¶¶

▷▷ "his sons ~ blasphemed God, ~ and he failed ~ to restrain them." (1 Sam 3:13).

COL. 3:20b ~ SHOWS US ~ THE SCOPE ~ OF THE FIRST PRECEPT.

▶▶ I.e., ~ the extent ~ of obedience.

▷▷ In everything.

▶▶ This emphasizes ~ the comprehensive scope ~ of their obedience ~ to their parents.

HOWEVER, ~ WE SHOULD MENTION HERE ~ THAT OBEDIENCE IN EVERYTHING, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ as is submission of wives to husbands, ~ of believers to church leadership, ~ governments, ~ and employers, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ is restricted ~ as to degree. ¶¶ 4/16

▶▶ If a parent demands ~ 77

▷▷ that their children do something ~ that would cause them ~ to violate God's word, ~ 77

↳↳ the children ~ are to obey God.

▶▶ Also, ~ nowhere ~ does Paul suggest ~ that obedience requires a child ~ 77

▷▷ to be silent ~ in the face of abuse, ~ physical ~ or otherwise.

▷▷ Just as in the case of wives, ~ abuse ~ requires outside help.

▷▷ And no child ~ should ever imagine ~ 77

↳↳ that resisting abuse ~ violates Paul's command.

BETWEEN COL. & EPH., ~ PAUL GIVES ~ THREE REASONS ~ FOR THE FIRST PRECEPT.

▶▶ I.e., ~ three motives ~ for obedience.

▶▶ 1st, ~ Col. 3:20c.

▷▷ for this ~ [i.e., ~ obeying your parents] ~ pleases the Lord.

↳↳ Pretty self-explanatory.

▶▶ 2nd, ~ Eph. 6:1b.

▷▷ Children, ~ obey your parents ~ in the Lord. 77 5/16

▷▷ The preposition ~ "in" ~ indicates ~ the sphere ~ of Christian existence.

↳↳ Simply put, ~ Paul is saying this: ~ ~ ¶¶

→→ Obey your parents ~ because ~ you belong to the Lord.

▷▷ IOW, ~ obedience to their parents ~ is appropriate behavior ~ for those ~ who belong to the Lord.

▷▷ Obedience then ~ is ~ predicated on ~ and motivated by ~ ¶¶

↳↳ the budding relationship ~ these children have with the Lord.

▶▶ And now ~ the third motive ~ for obedience.

▷▷ Eph. 6:1c.

↳↳ For this is right.

→→ I.e., ~ Children, ~ obey your parents ~ because ~ this ~ is the right thing to do.

▷▷ And it's the right thing to do ~ because ~ ¶¶

↳↳ God has placed parents ~ in authority ~ over their children.

NOW, ~ LET'S EXAMINE THE 2nd PRECEPT FOR BELIEVING CHILDREN.

EPHESIANS ~ 6:~ 2a.

▶▶ Honor your father and mother. ¶¶ 6/16

▷▷Here Paul quotes the fifth commandment.

↳↳Paul ~ is calling on children ~ to respect, ~ love, ~ and obey ~ their parents.

IN EPH. 6:2b, ~ PAUL INSERTS ~ A PARENTHETICAL COMMENT.

▶▶(This is the first commandment with a promise)

▷▷I.e., ~ this is the first one ~ with a promise attached.

▶▶His comment ~ that a promise ~ comes with the commandment ~ provides a motive ~ ¶¶

▷▷for respecting, ~ loving, ~ and obeying one's parents.

THEN ~ IN EPH. 6:3, ~ PAUL QUOTES THE PROMISE.

▶▶That it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.

▷▷I.e., ~ Children, ~ if you honor your father and mother, ~ then ~ ¶¶

↳↳things will go well for you, ~ and you will have a long life on the earth.

▶▶Paul tells us ~ that the Christian child ~ who honors his parents ~ can expect two blessings.

▷▷1st, ~ it will be well with him

▷▷And 2nd, ~ he will live long on the earth. ¶¶ 7/16

▶▶ This does not mean ~ that everyone who dies young ~ dishonored his parents.

▶▶ Paul was stating ~ a general principle.

▷▷ When believing children ~ obey, ~ they will ~ escape ~ a good deal of sin and danger.

↳↳ And thus, ~ they will avoid the things ~ that could ~ threaten or shorten ~ their lives.

▶▶ But life ~ is not measured ~ only by ~ quantity of time.

▷▷ It is also measured ~ by quality ~ of experience.

▶▶ God enriches ~ the life of the obedient child ~ no matter how long ~ he/she may live on the earth. ⇔⇔ **Spiritual, ~ emotional, ~ & mental.**

AND WE COULD APPLY THIS ~ TO CHRISTIAN ADULTS AS WELL.

▶▶ Sin ~ always ~ robs us. ⇔⇔ **Not thinks so @ first. ⇔⇔ E.g., ~ steals peace of mind.**

▶▶ Obedience ~ always ~ enriches us.

▷▷ God enriches the lives ~ of his obedient children.

▷▷ Again, ~ not physical. ⇔⇔ **Spiritual, ~ emotional, ~ and mental enrichment.**

NOW, ~ LET ME INSERT HERE ~ A RATHER LONG NOTE, ~ BECAUSE ~ ¶¶

▶▶ it's so important, ~ for believers of any age ~ to get a handle on this area ~ of God's commands and obedience. ¶¶ **8/16**

▶▶Before. ⇔⇔ Bears repeating

▶▶God doesn't give us ~ a bunch of commands ~ simply because he wants us to obey ~ a bunch of commands.

▷▷He's not some ~ cosmic killjoy ~ who wants to restrict our freedom ~ or to prevent us from having fun.

↳↳This ~ is what Satan, ~ the world, ~ and our sin nature ~ would have us believe.

▶▶Far from it.

▷▷Every one ~ of God's commands in Scripture are: ~ ¶¶

↳↳for our good, ~ help us grow spiritually, ~ and ~ help us become more and more like Jesus.

▶▶And ~ when we obey his commands, ~ far from feeling restricted ~ or miserable, ~ ¶¶

▷▷we will find ~ incredible freedom and joy.

▶▶Again, ~ I call your attention ~ to the chorus of the old hymn.

▷▷"Trust and obey, ~ for there's no other way ~ to be happy in Jesus, ~ but to trust and obey."

↳↳This is ~ not ~ some ~ religious hogwash, ~ trite saying, ~ or legalistic nonsense.

↳↳This is a ~ theologically rich, ~ biblically sound, ~ and true ~ statement. ¶¶ 9/16

▶▶ A genuine believer ~ is never more miserable ~ ¶¶

▷▷ than when we are not following ~ our Lord's commands.

▷▷ Sin ~ brings only ~ a fleeting period~ of happiness.

↳↳ But ultimately ~ it brings ~ misery and enslavement, ~ and, ~ if it continues, ~ death.

▷▷ On the other hand, ~ a genuine believer ~ is never more happy ~ ¶¶

↳↳ than when we are walking by the Spirit, ~ i.e., ~ according to God's word.

↳↳ Ps. 119, ~ verses 1-2, ~ CSB ~ How happy ~ are those ~ whose way ~ is blameless, ~ who walk ~ according to the Lord's instruction! ~¶¶

→→ Happy ~ are those who ~ keep his decrees ~ and seek him ~ with all their heart.

↳↳ And Ps. 119, ~ verse 165, ⇔⇔ "Great peace have those ~ who love your law; ~¶¶

→→ nothing ~ can make them stumble.

LET'S NOW TURN OUR ATTENTION ~ TO THE PRECEPTS ~ FOR PARENTS.

BETWEEN COL. AND EPH., ~ WE SEE ~ THREE ~ COMMANDS FOR PARENTS.

▶▶ 1st, ~ Col. 3:21; ⇔⇔ Fathers, ~ do not provoke your children, ~ lest they become discouraged.

▶▶ 2nd, ~ Eph. 6:4a; ⇔⇔ Fathers, ~ do not provoke your children ~ to anger. ¶¶ 10/16

▶▶ And 3rd, ~ Eph. 6:4b; ⇔⇔ But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

OK, ~ LET'S UNPACK THESE.

THE FIRST ~ PRECEPT FOR PARENTS, ~ Col. 3:21.

FATHERS, ~ DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN, ~ LEST THEY BECOME DISCOURAGED.

▶▶ The Greek term ~ πατέρες, ~ in addition to meaning "father," ~ also meant parents.

▶▶ So reading this as ~ "Parents" ~ is appropriate here.

▷▷ Since in the context, ~ children are instructed ~ to obey ~ both parents.

↳↳ Read that way.

→→ Translations.

HOWEVER, ~ PAUL'S SHIFT ~ FROM THE WORD ~ γονεῖς ~ IN VERSE 20, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ which can only mean ~ "parents," ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to πατέρες ~ here in [verse 21](#) ~ is probably significant.

▶▶ In the Roman culture of Paul's day, ~ the father's parental authority ~ was unlimited.

▷▷ So, ~ calling attention to Father's ~ in the use of this term, ~ ¶¶

↳↳ would considerably ~ temper any extremes. ¶¶ 11/16

THE IDEA HERE, ~ WE MUST KEEP IN MIND, ~ ¶¶

▶▶ is a parent's ~ responsibility ~ to their children, ~ not ~ authority over them.

▶▶ Yes, ~ parents are in authority ~ over the children.

▶▶ But, ~ in the context here, ~ Paul is highlighting ~ parents' responsibilities ~ toward their children.

▶▶ Just as children have responsibilities toward their parents, ~ ¶¶

▷▷ so too ~ do parents toward their children.

↪↪ God's people ~ are not free ~ to treat their children ~ any way they want.

BASED ON THE VERB FORM, ~ A LITERAL TRANSLATION OF THE COMMAND ~ COULD BE this.

▶▶ "Do not be continually ~ irritating your children."

▶▶ Paul was not so naïve ~ as to suppose that parents ~ could avoid ~ ¶¶

▷▷ all instances of conflict ~ with their growing offspring.

▶▶ Total permissiveness ~ is not ~ a biblically-based philosophy.

▷▷ There will be times of unpleasantness.

↪↪ And children ~ will become annoyed and irritated ~ when disciplined. ¶¶ 12/16

▶▶ What Paul was prohibiting ~ was the ~ habitual ~ provoking of children ~ by insensitive parents.

▷▷ Continuous faultfinding ~ with no respite ~ should not characterize ~ the Christian home.

THE DANGER ~ IS THAT ~ CEASELESS IRRITATING OF CHILDREN ~ ¶¶

▶▶ may create a ~ sullen, ~ listless, ~ discouraged ~ disposition.

▶▶ A child ~ who experiences continual criticism ~ and rarely any love ~ will be scarred ~ for life.

▶▶ Christian practice in the home, ~ i.e., ~ raising children God's way ~ ¶¶

▷▷ will display the balance ~ that creates ~ a wholesome climate ~ and ~ well-adjusted children.

NOW ~ THE 2ND ~ PRECEPT FOR PARENTS, ~ EPH. 6:4a.

FATHERS, ~ DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN ~ TO ANGER.

▶▶ Very similar to the first precept.

▷▷ So, ~ just a few words will suffice, ~ I think.

▶▶ The form of the verb ~ prohibits ~ the continual ~ provoking to anger.

▶▶ This precept ~ is a warning ~ against the sort of iron-handed discipline ~ ¶¶

▷▷ that eventually ~ breaks the spirit of a child. ¶¶ 13/16

▶▶ Unjust demands, ~ unreasonable severity, ~ and ~ unremitting criticism ~ 77

▷▷ produce ~ bitterness ~ instead of training.

▶▶ That is not to say ~ that Paul ~ is suggesting permissiveness.

▷▷ Paul makes that very clear ~ in the third precept, ~ to which we now turn.

THE ~ 3rd ~ PRECEPT FOR PARENTS, ~ EPH. 6:4b.

BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE LORD.

▶▶ Discipline implies ~ training in proper conduct ~ and ~ chastening in times of failure.

▶▶ Instruction involves ~ teaching, ~ 77

▷▷ whether by ~ praise, ~ warning, ~ censure, ~ and ~ explanation of principles.

▶▶ And in light of the two previous precepts, ~ 77

▷▷ there should be ~ a good balance ~ of these things.

AS PARENTS RAISE THEIR CHILDREN, ~ THEY MUST NOT NEGLECT ~ 77

▶▶ the spiritual aspects ~ of their education.

▶▶ Deut. 6:4-9 ~ applies here. 11 14/16

▶▶ Notice the charge to parents.

▷▷ Deut. 6:4-9

▷▷ The commands ~ to tie them and write them ~ ¶¶

↳↳ are probably emphasizing ~ symbolically ~ the need ~ ¶¶

→→ for the continual teaching ~ of God's word.

▶▶ Quite a responsibility ~ parents have been given.

ALL OF PARENTS' DEALINGS WITH THEIR CHILDREN ~ SHOULD BE IN ACCORD ~ ¶¶

▶▶ with the Lord's standards ~ as revealed in Scripture.

▶▶ Parents ~ can give their children ~ no better preparation for life ~ ¶¶

▷▷ than to provide them with a ~ thorough awareness of ~ and respect for ~ God's word.

▶▶ How can a young person stay pure, ~ the psalmist asks?

▷▷ And his answer?

↳↳ By obeying God's word.

▶▶ And look at the benefits ~ of studying God's word thoroughly. ⇔⇔ For adults as well.

▷▷ Ps. 119:97-104 ¶¶ 15/16

CONCLUSION.

AND AGAIN, ~ WE WHO HAVE RAISED OUR CHILDREN ~ CAN ~ WISELY ~ ¶¶

▶▶ counsel our adult children ~ who are believers ~ ¶¶

▷▷ to follow the Lord's instructions on raising children.

▶▶ Furthermore, ~ we can be ~ a positive spiritual influence ~ in the lives of our grandchildren.

▶▶ And, ~ there is much in what Paul says to children ~ that we can apply ~ to our own lives.

LET'S PRAY 16/16