



## Eph 6:1–4

**Read**, the passage below...

Ask the Lord to open your eyes, that you may behold wonderful things from His Word (Ps 119:18), and that you would receive His Word with humility—putting it into practice in your daily life (Jas 1:21–22).

### Passage:<sup>1</sup>

- 6:1 <sup>s</sup>Children, **obey** your parents in the Lord, for this is right.
- 2 <sup>t</sup>"**Honor** your father and mother" (this **is** the first commandment with a promise),
- 3 "that it may <sup>MidSubj</sup>go well with you and <sup>Mid</sup>that you may **live long** in the land."
- 4 Fathers, do not **provoke** your children to anger, <sup>u</sup>but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### Context:

According to 5:21, to be Spirit-filled among other things, means being involved in relationships of mutual submission in the fear of the Lord.

Beginning in 5:22, all the way to 6:9, Paul is going to focus on 3 different spheres of relationship to show us the practical implications for lives of mutual submission.

Having discussed the roles and responsibilities of husbands and wives in 5:22–33, Paul now turns his attention to parents and children in 6:1–4.

Paul's words are deeply counter cultural in a world that afforded almost no rights to those of lower social standing.

### Exploring the Text:

As you answer the following questions, please take the time to read all the **cross references** at the end of the questions. These are provided to enrich your study experience.

1. Who is being addressed in 6:1? If I said that the command in 5:22 is not addressed to husbands and that it is not the responsibility of husbands to *make their wives submit*, why is the same thing true of parents? Try to support your answer with Scripture?

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2. Should children obey all grown-ups? Why or why not?

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<sup>1</sup> *Scripture quotations* taken from the New American Standard Bible® (NASB), Copyright © 1960, 1962, 1963, 1968, 1971, 1972, 1973, 1975, 1977, 1995 by The Lockman Foundation. Used by permission.



3. Do the word "in the Lord" imply that children need only obey if their parents are believers? Explain your answer.

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4. Paul ends v1 with the words "for this is right." What makes something right? How is that true in this case?

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5. What is the difference between honouring and obeying someone? (cf. v2) Do children ever "outgrow" the requirement to obey their parents? Do they children ever "outgrow" the requirement to honour their parents? Try to support your answer biblically...

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6. Does obedience guarantee a long life according to v3? If not, how should we then understand this verse?

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7. What makes v4 so counter cultural in a 1<sup>st</sup> century Greco-Roman world?

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8. What does it mean to "provoke your child to anger?" How do parents do this?

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9. If "provoking children to anger" is a form of disregard/neglect, how do parents show care for their children?

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10. When parents neglect the instruction of v4, what does it say regarding their relationship with?

Their children: .....

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The Lord: .....

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***For Further Reflection:***

11. Why is it necessary for parents to consider the needs of their children?

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12. How can you improve in your faithfulness as a parent and child?

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***Suggestion for Prayer:***

Thank the Lord for His design of the family. Thank God for His gift of children. If any of them are unsaved, ask the Lord for the salvation of your children/parents.

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