

Ephesians – An Inside Look
We Are Family
Part 7
Eph 6:1-3

First thing we want to talk about is **obedience**. And what does it mean to obey? It's a part of our life in every day living.

When I'm driving down the highway, I have the option to obey or disobey the speed limit signs.

You have the option that tomorrow morning, you're required to come to work in order to get a paycheck.

You can obey, or you can call in, "I don't feel good." and fake it, and disobey, or you can obey and follow.

Kids in the house! You have an option to obey or disobey your Mom and Dad.

How many kids have ever been in time-out?

How many of you big kids have ever been in time-out,?

Well, as we read this, we can definitely apply these Scriptures and these values to our children, but they also apply to us as God's children.

That God desires that we would obey Him and that we would follow His will and His desire for our lives.

Jesus said, "I didn't come in this world to fulfill my will." He said, "I came to fulfill the will of my Father."

He said, "I'm not doing what I choose, I'm doing, and I'm mimicking what the Father is telling me and showing me to do here on this Earth."

The first Big Idea is: obedience is learning to submit to authority.

If I choose not to submit to the authority of the speed limit that is out there, I'll be stopped ... I'll be pulled over ... I'll be penalized ... I'll be disciplined for my lack obedience.

And it's learning to submit to authority.

All of us have to submit to some authority.

Even though I'm in a place of authority, I'm still under authority.

And all of us have to learn that place of submission to authority in our lives.

And when we learn how to process this, our lives are going to run much more smoothly.

1 Jn 4:20 - "If anyone says I love God yet hates his brother, he's a liar. For anyone who does not love his brother whom he has seen, cannot love God whom he has not seen."

Now if that's true in the arena of love, I believe our second point is true here today.

If you can't obey your parents, kids, whom you can see, how are you ever going to obey God whom you can't see?

You see, the people in authority over us ...

If we'll learn to submit to those in authority and learn to surrender our will, then it's going to grow us and help us to learn to submit to our Heavenly Father.

Now let's talk about **honor** ... Verse 2

To honor means to revere, to esteem, to prize and to look up to with respect.

Now notice that the blessing comes on Verse 2, not on Verse 1. "The blessing comes upon honoring your father and mother."

I believe the same is true in our relationship with God.

The blessings and the favor of God come upon honoring our Heavenly Father, not, "I've gotta read my Bible because You said we have to renew our minds, so I'm going to read my Bible."

See, you're doing it out of sheer obedience. You're doing it because you have to.

Honor is submitting our will to the one in authority.

It's not just learning to submit. Honor is submitting our will.

I can be forced to do something, forced to obey, but it's the old Charlie Brown cartoon that he's standing in the corner, he says, "I'm standing on the outside, but I'm sitting down on the inside."

It's an attitude of the heart. **Obedience is outward ... honor is an inward reflection of our heart.**

So our second Big Idea here is: honor is fueled by love, disobedience is fueled by pride.

Jesus didn't go to the cross and say, "My Dad's makin' me! Just go ahead ... put it in me. Just go ahead. Stick me. My Dad's makin' me do it."

Jesus went to the cross out of a love and adoration, honor, and respect and esteem for His Father.

Hebrews, Chapter 12 says, "*He went to the cross joyfully, looking forward to the joy that was set before Him, He endured the cross.*"

Why? Because He knew what the result would be.

Obedience is: I do it because I have to, but I still want it my way.

Honor is, I do it because I want to. I want to obey.

Third point ... honor is a revelation. Honor is a revelation that I don't know it all and I need help.

It's in our pride ... "I can do it. Leave me alone. I can make it on my own."

But it's in honor, "I need your wisdom. I need your help."

parents are dumb when we're 15 ... when we're 16. "I know how to drive a car, Dad. I got it. I got it.

Yeah, I've had four hours ... I know how to do this!"

And parents are kind of seen as dumb and ignorant and they don't know.

And then all of a sudden, after we've gone through a few crashes in life, and it's through difficulties and some heartaches and maybe some jail time, or whatever it might be ... all of a sudden the light bulb comes on at about 17, 18, 19, 20 where you go, "When did my parents become so smart?"

It's just like all of a sudden they became wise." And we begin to bask and receive of their knowledge and their wisdom that they share.

Now notice this ... God's favor and blessings are upon honor, not obedience. Why is it not obedience?

Because God's not looking for you and I to serve Him out of just sheer, "We have to, we will."

He's looking for a heart engagement and a heart connection with us.

The blessings come upon honor because honor is my will submitting to His will.

I'm obeying because I want to, not because I have to.

Which leads us to our next point ... obedience represents living by the law. Honor represents living by the spirit and grace.

The law says you have to do it, you have to fulfill it.

Honor says, "Live in the freedom in the spirit of God's love and God's grace."

You see listed on the screen, "The law is death and bondage.

It's obedience, it's duty and obligation.

It's someone who is of parent-control or could we say authority-controlled?"

Someone who lives by the spirit lives with life and liberty and honor and love and service and their self-controlled and spirit-led.

And so, Mom and Dad, make sure you're aiming for the right target.

Too many parents aim for Ephesians 6:1 ... "Children, obey your parents in the Lord ... you will obey me."

No, no, no, no. The goal of parenting is Ephesians 6:2: "Honor your father and mother."

Because when they honor you, they'll obey you.

And honor is a representation of a relationship.

"Rules without relationship equals rebellion."

If you're just setting down rules, you're putting your kids under the law and they're living by the law and the law kills, but the spirit gives life.

Parents

Verse 4: "Fathers [and really the insinuation here is parents] do not exasperate [other translations say, provoke] your children. Instead bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord."

Mom and Dad you need to know this: **If our kids were perfect, they would have no need for us.**

Just realize that. Every time our kids would mess up, I'd go, "Job security."

They need me. They still need my coaching, my life training.

But here's the challenge ... most of you have very good kids, but you're frustrated because they're not perfect kids.

And we need to be careful because there was one that was perfect and His name is Jesus.

And unless you are Mary and Joseph and your son is Jesus, don't expect your kids to be perfect and be without sin or be without mistakes or flaws in their life.

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old, he will not depart from it."

That word 'train' means repetition. You can't just tell your kids one thing one time and expect them to get it.

Secondly, the number one way to train and instruct our children is to model the behavior desired.

Too many parents wanna, "You do as I say, not as I do."

We need to model the behavior that is desired.

In the 'Message' version, here's what it says. It says, "Fathers, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. [Look at these words...] Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master."

How do you be a good parent? You show, demonstrate, and model.
If you wanna teach your kids to pray, let them see you pray.

Number three ... this is not a misprint. **Do you treat your son or daughter as a child, an adult, or a tweenager?**

There is no such thing in God's Word of a teenager.

There is no such thing in God's Word called 'adolescence.'

There's no middle ground. You are either a child or you are an adult according to God.

Look what the Word of God says ... don't believe me? **1st Corinthians 13:11** Paul wrote: "*When I was a child I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, and when I got into my teenage years, I started to put away childish things and then I became a man at 18, at 21.*" No. When I became a man, I stopped doing childish things.

You go throughout history of the Word of God, God used Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, go through the ... Mary ... they say it was probably between the age of 13 and 15 ... God entrusted the Savior of the World to a teenager!

We won't even let them sit in the driver's seat before 16! Okay?

See what I'm saying? We do not trust this.

But here's what we do in our country ... young boy, young girl turns 12, 13 ... "I can fly. I'm going to spread my wings, Mama! I can fly."

And then what do we do as parents? "Who do you think you are? You're not an adult!"

And so then this teenager goes, "Oh, I'm not an adult? I can't fly?"

And then what do we say to them? "Grow up!" "Would you grow up?"

And so now it's grow up, oh, you're not ... be an adult. Who do you think you are?

And it's like Purgatory! We're kinda trapped in this no-man's land.

We didn't make Heaven, we didn't make hell ... we didn't make adulthood and we can't be in childhood, and we're trapped in this in-between stage.

Now, the last word, we're out of time. **Teenagers?** Let me talk to you....mentally answer this question - as you think about your day, who tells you 'no' the most often?

Mom or Dad?

Teenager is an age category, not a social category.

In God's eyes, you're a child or you're an adult.

He used teenagers throughout history for His front line ... major offensive and defensive purposes in the Kingdom of God.

Teenagers in that age category? **You're a man ... you're a woman. Act like it!**

That went over well!

Teenagers in that age category? You should be the number one person telling you "no." **If you're taking notes, a parent-controlled individual is still a child.**

If your Mommy and your Daddy have to tell you to get up.

If your Mommy and your Daddy have to tell you to go and to do this and to do that ... and "You better leave for work." You better do this, you better do that.

You're parent-controlled and you're 15, you're 16, you're 18 ... there are people in this room that are in their 20's, 30's, and 40's and you still aren't self-controlled ... you're living like a child.

You did not develop self-control.

You become an adult, when you demonstrate and live by self-control.