



WEEKLY SERMON

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Message: Christian Life

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Text: Ephesians 6:1-3

In Job 35:10 we read, "...Where is God my maker, who gives songs in the night?"

In Psalm 30:5 we read, "...weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

I realize that there may be those who are reading these words who are facing some of the trials that we all face along our journey during this life. No matter what those trials may be, you have the promise from God Himself that He will see you through.

For those of you dealing with health issues, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

For those of you dealing with financial problems, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

For those of you dealing with problems in your marriage, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

For those of you dealing with problems at school or work, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

For those of you dealing with the death of a loved one, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

For those of you dealing with problems with your children, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

For those of you battling with some sort of addiction, weeping may remain for a night, but rejoicing comes in the morning!

It is not difficult to sing when all is going well. But often God gives a special song to one of his hurting children during the night times of their life. Believers find new joys in their nights of sorrow and despair; and they discover a greater closeness with their Lord during times of deep need.

Charles Weigle's song, "**No One Ever Cared For Me Like Jesus**," was the product of one of the darkest periods of his life. Weigle spent most of his life as an itinerant evangelist and gospel songwriter. One day after returning home from an evangelistic crusade, he found a note left by his wife of many years. The note said she had had enough of an evangelist's life. She was leaving him. Weigle later said that he became so despondent during the next several years that there were even times when he contemplated suicide.

There was the terrible despair that no one really cared for him anymore. Gradually his spiritual faith was restored, and he once again became active in the Christian ministry. Soon he felt compelled to write a song that would be a summary of his past tragic experience. From a heart that had been broken came these choice words that God gave to Charles Weigle:

**I would love to tell you what I think of Jesus
since I found in Him a friend so strong and true;
I would tell you how He changed my life completely -**

He did something that no other friend could do.

All my life was full of sin when Jesus found me,
all my heart was full of misery and woe.
Jesus placed His strong and loving arms around me,
and He led me in the way I ought to go.

Every day He comes to me with new assurance,
more and more I understand His words of love.
But I'll never know just why He came to save me,
till someday I see His blessed face above.

Chorus: No one ever cared for me like Jesus;
there's no other friend so kind as He;
no one else could take the sin and darkness
from me - O how much He cared for me!

With God's help, determine to rise above the problems and hurts that you may be experiencing and turn them into a blessing. Reaffirm your confidence in God's love and care for you by singing this musical truth as you go, "No one ever cared for me like Jesus; there's no other friend so kind as He."

In *His* Amazing Grace,
Pastor David Miklas

"Let's Not Complain"

There never was a day so long but the Lord was not there. He's there to fill our hearts with song and take away our care. There for us to lean upon, His mighty arm so dear. Let's not complain if days are long; it brings the Lord so near.

There never was a night so dark, but what the Lord can see; He's there to guide our little ark across the raging sea. Tho cloudy here and trials may come, and skies be all but fair; let's not forget God understands and He is always there.

Let's not forget He knows the way, because the path he made. And, if we're faithful, we shall find we need not be afraid. For God is there; yes, God is there; He hears and knows our call. Let's trust Him then; He'll answer our prayer and lead us lest we fall.

Let days be long and nights be dark; we know they cannot last. For every one we know of yet has long ago been passed. And now another day is here. Let it be short or long; Let's not complain, for God is there to fill our hearts with song

Each generation of Christianity must look to its beliefs. While truth itself is unchanging, the minds of men are porous vessels out of which truth can leak and into which error may seep to dilute the truth they contain. The human heart is heretical by nature and runs to error as naturally as a garden to weeds. All a man or church needs to guarantee deterioration of doctrine is to take everything for granted and do nothing. The heart that fails to cultivate truth and root out error will soon become a theological wilderness.

“CHILDREN OBEY and HONOR YOUR PARENTS”

INTRODUCTION: In our focus on the Christian Home we come to Ephesians 6:1-3.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. (2) Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; (3) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”

Listen to this statement as it will form the foundation for this message: “**The Foundation for Christian character begins with OBEDIENCE to parents.**”

In Exodus 20 we have the list of the Ten Commandments. The first four commandments sum up our relationship to God, the last six commandments sum up all human duty towards mankind. The first of the six which is actually the fifth commandment is found in verse 12, “**Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**”

The 5th commandment is a bridge to the first four, because to the child, the parent is a link to God. From the parent a child learns to **FEAR** and **TRUST** God.

The 5th commandment is a transition to the last 5 commandments, because from the family comes the character and the proper attitude that will apply to others.

Children who obey and honor their parents will have a morality that will save them from **MURDER, ADULTERY, THEFT, SLANDER** and **COVETOUSNESS**.

Many of the problems faced by adults today are a direct result of disobedience to their parents when they were children.

Now from Ephesians 6 let me show you **THREE** truths all beginning with the letter “**P**”.

FIRST: “The **PRINCIPLE**” in verses 1-2,
SECOND: “The **PRACTICE**”, and
THIRD: “The **PROMISE**” in verse 3.

FIRST: “**The PRINCIPLE**” In verses 1-2 the two key words are **OBEDY** and **HONOR**. Both of these words are in the Greek present imperative tense.

God said in verse 1 to **OBEDY** and keep on obeying your parents.
God said in verse 2 to **HONOR** and keep on honoring your parents.

Now the word **OBEDY** in verse 1 is a simple, yet very graphic term. It is a compound word which means to “**HEAR UNDER.**” what Paul is saying, “**Children get under the authority of your parents and listen.**” It is that simple, “**Children get under the authority of your parents and listen.**”

Today, our social society is saying that we must liberate children. They need to be their own person. We must free them from parental control. **HUMANISTIC PHILOSOPHY** tells us children must have:

The right to their own destiny;
The right to have their own religion;
The right to their own thoughts;

The right to their own money;
The right to their own morality; and
The right to do as they may very well please.

That is not what the Word of God says. It’s saying, “**Children get under the authority of your parents and listen.**”

God's basic design is for children to be **OBEDIENT** to their parents. Why? Because children are naturally disobedient. You don't have to teach a child to be disobedient, by nature they know how. Children have an **OLD SIN NATURE** that they inherited at conception. Therefore **OBEDIENCE** must be **TAUGHT** as well as **CAUGHT**.

Let me address these next remarks directly to the children and teenagers. For example, **OBEDIENCE** means:

When your parents tell you to turn off the TV, you are to do it right now.
When your parents tell you to do your chores, you are to do them right now.
When your parents tell you to go to bed, you are to do it right now.
When your parents tell you to return home by a certain time, you are to do so, not 10 or EVEN 5 minutes after the fact.

The more often you submit to parental authority now,

the easier it will be to submit to **TEACHER** authority later;
the easier it will be to submit to **PASTORAL** authority later; and
the easier it will be to submit to **EMPLOYER** authority later.

Make no mistake about it. You have **NO RIGHT TO DISPUTE OR ARGUE A COMMAND**. I know this next statement is hard to accept, but here it is. "**CHILDREN HAVE NO RIGHTS, EXCEPT THE RIGHT TO OBEDIENCE.**" You may be saying, "Pastor, hold it right there you have gone too far, that's unfair." **NO!** Obedience is character training and the earlier you learn to **OBEDIENT** the better off you will be later in life.

Now, you may not understand all the reasons why your parents tell you to do things. But remember, they have already passed your way in life, and now God has given you to them to be developed by them.

One day, more than likely, you will wake up and say, "**Woe, my parents really did love me when they said a DEFINITE NO to my "foolish wants" and when they made me do things I really did not want to do.**" On the other hand, I can almost guarantee there will be heartache if you do not submit to obey. Because long into the future, you will likely say, "**I wish I had been more obedient.**"

Please note that this command in verse 1 does not carry any qualifications or exceptions.

It does not depend on a parent's qualities.
It does not depend on whether they will reward you or not.
It does not depend on whether they are born-again God-fearing parents.
It does not depend on whether they are good Christians.

Over in Colossians 3:20 we read, "**Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.**" Here you are told you are to be obedient in all things, because that pleases God.

You may be surprised about this statement, but "**sometimes the parent may be wrong.**" I admit that I have been wrong in my direction, judgment, or decision on occasions. It may have been true that my child or teenager had reason to question my decision or command. But that did not justify my child refusing to be obedient.

On the other hand if my child came to me with the right attitude and appealed my command, I was willing to listen and perhaps change my mind about the situation.

Now let me say a word to the adults who are reading this message.

Are you having problems with following orders or directions in life?
Are you having problems obeying your mate in marriage?
Are you having problems winning your unsaved parents to Christ?
Do you always question decisions made by those in authority?

Perhaps you are reaping what you sowed as a child - rebellion to your parents. Let me advise you to take the first step. With a humble spirit go to your parents even if they are unsaved and ask "For their forgiveness for your rebellious attitude, or your ungrateful attitude while you were under their roof." This could perhaps open up the lines of communication and the opportunity to present Christ to your parents.

Now the second key word in verse 2 is **HONOR**. It means **RESPECT for AUTHORITY**.

HONOR is the ATTITUDE behind the ACT.
OBEDIENCE is the ACT. HONOR is the ATTITUDE.

Here is the point. A child may do what a parent tells him or her to do. But if they **GRIBE or COMPLAIN** with a bad attitude, the child's obedience is **HYPOCRITICAL**.

God is looking for the **ATTITUDE**, because if the **ATTITUDE** is right, the **ACTION** will follow. Here again we are to **RESPECT** the **POSITION** and not the **PERSONALITY**.

When Paul said in verse 1 "in the Lord" he means obedience to parents is obedience to God.
When Paul said in verse 1 "It is right" he means obedience is related to God's order.

Everything operates on the law of order and God does use the **CHAIN OF COMMAND**. Obedience to your parents results in obedience and reverence for God.

In II Timothy 3:2-4 we see a terrible catalog of the sins of men in the last days.

"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, (3) Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, (4) Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; (5) Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away."

Did you notice right in the middle of the list of sins, we learn that some will be "blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy."

Blasphemy and disobedience to parents go together.
Disobedience to parents and unholiness go together.

So those who do not honor parents do not honor God. However on the other hand, by honoring parents children carry on to the next generation the spiritual and moral inheritance of their father's generation. Some one said this,

"A morally great nation can only be continued where children obey and honor their parents. Otherwise, nations decay, morality wanes, and a nation comes to ruin."

SECOND: "THE PRACTICE" Now that we have established the Biblical principle, let me be very practical and suggest how we may put this into practice.

From the parents perspective, here are **SIX** practical practices you can use to teach Obedience and Honor.

1. **ALWAYS require strict obedience**. This obedience should always be immediate, without question, and without argument.

What the Father requests the child does.
What the Mother requests the child does.

There are no exceptions to the rule; obedience is the law of the home.

The problem of disobedience in the home carries into the school. They argue over directions. They will stand there and argue with you over the instruction saying, "**Since I don't agree, I don't have to do it.**"

The problem of disobedience in the home carries into the work place. They will debate over instructions given by the employer. So we hear them say, "**I don't need this job, nor do I need you telling me what to do.**"

I said earlier that obedience is the foundation of character.

For a boy this is essential. For one day he will be a man, a leader in the home, a leader in society. And in order to be a proper leader, he must learn obedience at home. Before he can become a good leader he must learn to be a good follower.

For a girl this is essential, for she must be obedient all of her life. Whereas the boy is being trained to be a leader, the girl is being trained to be a follower of her husband. Hence, obedience is of great importance to her, for she must someday transfer it from her parents to her husband.

2. **NEVER allow a child to strike you, their parent.** In Exodus 21:15 we read, "**And he that smiteth his father or mother shall be put to death.**" Even a baby should be taught to never raise a hand to a parent, even if to him/her it may be fun.

3. **REQUIRE proper address and response.** There is a modern idea that is promoting a familiarity that often leads to disrespect by calling parents by their first names. A parent is not a big brother/sister, pal or buddy. The office of mother and father should demand more respect than that.

There should also be taught proper responses by using "**Yes Sir,**" "**No Sir,**" "**Yes Ma'am,**" and "**No Ma'am.**" These replies show respect for authority. Thus the child should always address their parents with a proper response and title. In our home it is Dad and Mom. In yours it may be Daddy, Papa, Father, or Mama, Mommy, Mother.

4. **RESPECT for you as parents includes showing preference.** This is teaching the child respect for age, authority, position, and also consideration for others. The child who learns to be unselfish at home will one day transfer that unselfishness to others outside of the home.

Let the parents go first through a door.
Give Dad the TV controller.
Give Mom the most comfortable seat.

5. **RESPECT for you as parents includes caring and providing for you.** In I Timothy 5:1-8 we are given instructions as to how we are to treat our elders who need help. God's plan is not only depending on an old age pension, or welfare relief. Rather God's plan is that sons and daughters should provide for their parents if and when needed. Here we read,

"Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; (2) The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity. (3) Honour widows that are widows indeed. (4) But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite (repay) their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God. (5) Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. (6) But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. (7) And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless. (8) But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel."

6. **ALWAYS compliment Obedience.** Teach the child that character of obedience is more important than talent. Many a child has been ruined because the parent has become proud of their talent, yet they have never perfected their obedience. You need to be more concerned that a child **ACTS** right than **PERFORMS** right.

Now let me turn the coin and speak to the children and teenagers for a few minutes. Here are 8 things you can do for your parents.

1. **Understand us.** Remember that we were not trained when you came. There was no internship through which we could pass. We have tried to be what you need. You often ask us to understand you and you rightly make this request. Now, we in turn ask you to understand us your parents, who have hopes and dreams for you. We do have feelings inside for you.

2. **Flatter us.** Surprise your parents, since we love to be "battered up."

3. **Express your gratitude toward us.** During those occasional times when your parents do something right, tell us you appreciate it. Write us a love note, tell us you appreciate us. We have a heart, too, you know.

4. **If we ask you to do something with us, try real hard to do it.** If you have something planned, call your friends and tell them Mom and Dad have this strange, stupid idea of spending some time with you. They'll understand, they have retarded parents also.

5. **Make us proud that we are your parents.** We do want to be proud of you. In fact, that is one of the things that we want more than anything in the world. We want to feel like we have succeeded. It will help us in the twilight years of life when all we have is the memories.

6. **Girls, you need to be to your Dad what you want to be to your husband one day.** Remember you are in training. Why not look at your relationship with your dad as practice for the day when you will serve, cherish and respect the man of God's choosing after the wedding day.

Listen to his conversation as if you were practicing to listen to your husband.
Make him your hero and boost his ego.
Be his servant just as you will one day serve the man of God's choosing.

7. **Boys, you need to show an extra measure of love to your mom.** Do some special things for her. Surprise her not just with a gift, but with your helpfulness and attitude. You will be surprised how this practice will help one day with your wife.

8. **You need to be affectionate to us.** Give us a hug, a squeeze, or a kiss back. We are not trying to do this as a bribe, we still like to have a little loving thrown our way. By the way, don't forget to include your grandmother and grandfather. Studies prove that human touch is essential for good health – yours and theirs.

THIRD: "THE PROMISE." We have seen **The Principle** in Ephesians 6:1-2. We have looked at 14 ways to put the principle into practice. Now notice with me in verse 3 **The Promise** "That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth."

There are two passages in the Old Testament that help to amplify this **PROMISE.**

First: Deuteronomy 21:18-21, "If a man have a stubborn and rebellious son, which will not obey the voice of his father, or the voice of his mother, and that, when they have chastened him,

will not hearken unto them: (19) Then shall his father and his mother lay hold on him, and bring him out unto the elders of his city, and unto the gate of his place; (20) And they shall say unto the elders of his city, This our son is stubborn and rebellious, he will not obey our voice; he is a glutton, and a drunkard. (21) And all the men of his city shall stone him with stones, that he die: so shalt thou put evil away from among you; and all Israel shall hear, and fear."

Second: Proverbs 30:17, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." May I encourage you to let this passage sink in deeply as you read and underline this verse in your Bibles.

Listen to this carefully, "Rebellious youth always show signs of spiritual death. **YOU CAN SEE IT IN THEIR EYES!** Young people can tell me whether they Obey and Honor their Father and Mother and from their answers and I can tell them their future."

The first instruction is to **OBEY** and **KEEP ON OBEYING**.
The second instruction is to **HONOR** and keep on **HONORING** your parents.

Oh, what a heritage we leave our children when they are taught the character of **OBEDIENCE** and **HONOR**.

I hurt inside when I see disobedience and dishonor not only from the children but as well as from the adults. Seeing disobedience makes me wonder if you really are living in obedience to the principles and precepts of the eternal Word of God.

Oh, for parents who will rise up to command respect. In Genesis 18:19 we read this testimony given by God concerning Abraham,

"For I (God) know him, (Abraham) that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice ..."

Parents, grandparents, children's workers, the future is in our hands, **WHAT AN AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY!**

Remember the words from Mt Sinai that God did thunder,

"Honor thy father and mother, that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon, "**CHILDREN OBEY and HONOR YOUR PARENTS**" then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, "...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..."
Romans 10:13, "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: "I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation."

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know. Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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