



Colossians 3.20-21 “The Law With A Promise”

18 Wives, submit
to your own husbands,
as is fitting in the Lord.

3 important points here:

1. Who: “Wives”
2. What: “submit”
 - a. To whom: “your own husbands”
3. Why and How: “as is fitting in the Lord”

19 Husbands,
love your wives
and do not be bitter toward them.

3 Important points here:

1. Who: “Husbands”
2. What: “Love”
 - a. Whom: “your wife”
3. Why and How: “without bitterness”; “do not be bitter toward them.”

20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

- 1. Who: Children**
- 2. What: Obey your Parents**
- 3. Why and How:**
 - a. Because it pleases the Lord**
 - b. In all things**

PLEASE notice – a child’s behavior is directly related to:

- **Their Mother’s behavior with their Father. (V18)**
 - If their Mother rejects their Father’s authority, they will as well.

- Perhaps this is why the Mother is mentioned first in these instructions – her influence upon the children often carries the most weight.
- **Their Father's behavior with their Mother. (V19)**
 - If the Father will not sacrifice his life for their Mother, neither will they value their Mother's relationship with them.
- **Be obedient** (5219) (*hupakouo* from *hupó* = under + *akoúo* = hear) means literally to hear, where the idea of "under" is consciously, volitionally (act of one's will) subordinating one's self to the person or thing heard and hence "to obey" or to hearken (give respectful attention). It includes the idea of listening attentively, stillness, or attention.
 - *Hupakouóō* is used of the obedience children render to their parents (Eph. 6:1; Col. 3:20). **This refers to an obedience which springs from their sense of duty toward, and dependence on parents.** ¹

Because it pleases the Lord

- Children certainly know that displeasing their Parents has consequences – **or they should know!**
 - Do they also know that the LORD is pleased with their obedience?
 - Behavior is important – attitude is just as important!
 - **25.94 εὐάρεστος, ον; εὐαρέστως: pertaining to that which causes someone to be pleased—'pleasing to, pleasingly.'**
 - εὐάρεστος: τὸ ἀγαθὸν καὶ εὐάρεστον καὶ τέλειον 'what is good and is pleasing to him and is perfect' Ro 12:2.
 - εὐαρέστως: ἔχωμεν χάριν, δι' ἧς λατρεύωμεν εὐαρέστως τῷ θεῷ 'let us be grateful and worship God in a way that pleases him' He 12:28. ²
 - **Same word used in these verses:**

Romans 12:1 I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, **acceptable to God**, which is your spiritual service of worship.

¹ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Dictionary: New Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 2000).

² Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 299.

Romans 12:2 And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and **acceptable** and perfect.

Romans 14:18 For he who in this way serves Christ is **acceptable to God** and approved by men.

Delayed obedience:

- Delayed obedience is the same as disobedience!
- **Remember: be filled with the Spirit!**
Ephesians 5:18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation; but be filled with the Spirit,
 - **Holy Spirit power** is our only hope of fulfilling these commands.
- **Story of Lucy and I talking about not being able to have children before we were married.**
 - Then having miraculous births.
 - This gave us a keen desire to raise them in righteousness
 - Savor every moment of their childhood
 - Don't rush through the experience
 - "Cat and the Cradle and the silver spoon" song

Disobedience:

- Is part of what God calls: **"a debased mind"**
Romans 1:28, 30 God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting: backbiters, haters of God, violent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, **disobedient to parents,**
- Is part of the **"perilous end times"** that are here now:
2 Timothy 3:1-5
1 But know this, that **in the last days perilous times will come:**
2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, **disobedient to parents,** unthankful, unholy,
3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good,
4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,
5 **having a form of godliness but denying its power.**
And from such people turn away!
 - **"Turn away"** from:
 - Disobedient Parents **and**
 - Disobedient children

- Training your children:

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

- Three parts to this command

- **1. “Train up”**

- **“dedicate”** – the most consistent meaning of the word in its other O.T. occurrences.
 - Dedicate your children to God
- **“Instruction”** – this is the meaning of this word as used in Jewish writings
 - personal instruction – not delegated to others
- **“Motivation”** – this is the meaning of this word in the Arabic.
 - Used to describe the action of a midwife who stimulates the taste of the newborn baby to nurse.
 - Parents are to motivate their children to enjoy the taste of God’s Word and His Spirit.

- **2. “a child”**

- One of seven Hebrew words translated as “child”
- Better translated as “dependent”
- As long as the child is dependent upon their parents they are to be the recipients of training.
- Regardless of age

- **3. “in the way that he should go”**

Deut 7:4-9

4 “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one!

5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart.

7 **You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.**

8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.

9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

▪ “When he is old” –

- When he is “independent”

Ephesians 6:2-3

2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise:

3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

- Ten Commandments – God’s Law

- Ten of 613 different laws in the “Torah”
- First commandment with a promise

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the Lord your God is giving you.

- Will affect two important aspects of life

- **Quality** “a well life”
- **Quantity** “you may live long”

Proverbs 4:20 My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings.

Proverbs 9:10-11

10 “The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, And the knowledge of the Holy One is understanding.

11 For by me your days will be multiplied, And years of life will be added to you.

Proverbs 10:27 The fear of the Lord prolongs days, But the years of the wicked will be shortened.

Proverbs 30:17 The eye that mocks his father, And scorns obedience to his mother, The ravens of the valley will pick it out, And the young eagles will eat it.

- Who would ever say:

- “I don’t want my child to live very long, so I won’t discipline him.”
- I don’t want my child to have a very easy or good life, so I won’t discipline him.

1 Kings 1:6 “And his father (*David*) had not rebuked him at any time by saying ‘why have you done so?’”

3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

1. Who: Fathers

2. What: Do not provoke your children

3. Why and How: they will become discouraged

- **Provoke not** (μη ἐρεθίζετε [mē erethizete]). Present imperative of old verb from ἐρεθῶ [erethō], to excite. Only twice in N. T., here in bad sense, in good sense in 2 Cor. 9:2 (to stimulate). Here it means to nag and as a habit (present tense). 3
- **That they be not discouraged** (ἵνα μη ἀθυμῶσιν [hina mē athumōsin]). Negative purpose (ἵνα μη [hina mē]) with the present subjunctive (**continued discouragement**) of ἀθυμῶ [athumēō], old verb, but only here in N. T., from ἀθυμός [athumos] (dispirited, α [a] privative, θυμός [thumos], spirit or courage). One does not have to read Jane Eyre or Oliver Twist to know something of the sorrows of childhood as is witnessed by runaway children and even child suicides. 4
 - **Provoke means to irritate or discourage children by harsh yelling, nagging, or deriding their efforts.** Such provocations wound their spirits (see note on Prov. 18:14) and make them timid (they become discouraged).⁵

Malachi 4:5-6

5 Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet
Before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.

6 **And he will turn
The hearts of the fathers to the children,
And the hearts of the children to their fathers,
Lest I come and strike the earth with a curse.**

³ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Col 3:21.

⁴ A.T. Robertson, *Word Pictures in the New Testament* (Nashville, TN: Broadman Press, 1933), Col 3:21.

⁵ Jack W. Hayford, ed., *Spirit Filled Life Study Bible*, electronic ed. (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1997), Col 3:20.