

Family Ties in the Lord

Proclamation Life Groups; Week of Sunday, May 9, 2021; Craig Hurty

Family ties provide the right way to learn submission out of reverence for Christ. Through obedience, children are brought to maturity, but parents are also shaped by this process. Scripture gives us motivation and direction for applying wisdom in family relationship and understanding God's will.

I. Right For Maturity – Read Ephesians 6:1

- A. How does Ephesians 6:1-4 fit into the whole of Ephesians. How does it fit contextually within chapters 4-6? What is the connection between Ephesians 5:21 and Ephesians 6:1-4?
- B. How would you interpret verse 1? Specifically, how are children obeying their parents in the Lord right? How is obedience in the Lord crucial for a child to grow in maturity?
- C. What are some of the different ways in which our approach to parenting reflects God's kindness to His people? What defines you as a parent? How can your approach to parenting prepare or hinder your children from maturing in the faith and in their relationships with others?
- D. What are some practical things that you can do as a parent to encourage your kids to be obedient?

II. Right For Motivation – Read Ephesians 6:2-3

- A. In verse 2, Paul quotes a passage of Scripture to highlight his point from verse 1. What is the passage that is cited and why is it significant to verses 1-4?
- B. According to Paul, this command is given with a promise. What does Paul mean when he says, "This is the first commandment with a promise?" How does Paul's use of the promise motivate the people of God to live righteously? Why are the promises of God a motivation to His people?
- C. How do family ties in the Lord help maximize our joy in the present life? What are some of the ways that you have seen family ties in the Lord bring joy to you and your family? How does this orientation to family and life change our perspective of obedience within the Christian life?

III. Right For Direction – Read Ephesians 6:4

- A. In verse 4, what does it look like to provoke your children to anger? Is this a single event or an ongoing issue? And why do you think Paul highlights fathers provoking their children to anger?
- B. What are the two ideas that Paul contrasts in verse 4? What does it look like to bring up children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord? What are some practical things that you can do on a daily, weekly, and monthly basis to be faithful to this command?
- C. If you could write a letter to your past-self as a parent, what advice would you give yourself pertaining to sinful patterns that have damaged or disoriented your relationships? What advice would you give regarding godly parenting methods for the good of your children? With regard to this advice, how would you encourage practicing godly parenting out of reverence to Christ?