

AACF Bible Study: Family

March 12, 2020

Ephesians 6:1-4: (ESV)

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),

3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

1. OBEY and HONOR your parents

- a. Obey: hupakouo - submission; share a root with acoustics - listening! Listen to what your parents are saying, then submit.
- b. Different from husband/wife relationship because parent/child submission implies authority/superiority; husband/wife relationship is a mutual submission.
- o Stop and Think #1: When your parents talk to you, are you really hearing what they are saying? Why or why not?

c. Honor: translation → weighty/heavy

- What does “honor” your parents mean in light of this translation?
 - they/what they say has value in your life. You value their opinion, take into account their experience. Care for them, show respect for them, *obey*. The natural result of an attitude of honor is obedience.

- o Stop and think #2: In what ways have you honored your parents?

2. WHY do we honor our parents?

- a. It's what Jesus did - he is our model
 - Luke 2:41-52
- b. “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right”
 - Ephesians 6:1

- This is what we're commanded by the word of God! God is good and right, so that's a good enough reason to obey it. (Humility to accept the word as it is, even if it's hard to understand.)
 - c. Matthew 12:46-50
 - Jesus' main commitment & priority was to his heavenly Father
 - The purpose of respecting our earthly parents is to honor God
 - Obey God (comes first) → obey parents
3. Side note - God restores imperfect families
- a. Matthew 1: Genealogy of Jesus
 - b. V3-5: Judah & Tamar's family (Tamar seduced father in law), Rahab (prostitute who saved spies in Jericho), Ruth (Moabite, widow)
 - c. Imperfect families in the genealogy of Christ! God restores and uses imperfect/unconventional families; they are attached to the families of Christ in a personal way and God used them for good.
4. Who is the "child"?
- a. The child is: "offspring" - not related to age, but to a relationship
 - Command doesn't reach an age limit or disappear when we turn 18
 - obeying/honoring looks different as we grow up
 - b. Luke 2:52: "And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man."
 - 4 areas in which children need to grow: (Luke 2:52)
 - Wisdom - mental capacity/abilities
 - Stature - physical capability
 - Favor with man - social capacity (relationships with others)
 - Favor with God - spiritual capacity (relationship with God)
 - c. 2 Timothy 1:5
 - Biblical family of Timothy - legacy of faith (Gma Lois → mother Eunice → son Timothy)
 - Parents have a strong influence in childrens' lives and can help guide them to follow Christ by being a good model for them
 - d. A note on difficult families:
 - Parents are people and fellow sinners; we are called to love them with gospel love.
 - See them as children of God, being sanctified too
 - We should want to change ourselves more than we want to change them. "If they would just change, it would be so much better..." → this mindset turns us away from looking inwards to see how we can improve
 - Have humility, mercy, kindness, and affection in the way we speak to and about them
 - Ultimately, all this will bring us closer to Christ/God
 - Loving better starts with loving Jesus more; loving better leads to loving Jesus more!

- A gospel centered home is one where Jesus has no rivals

Small group questions:

- Did anything stand out to you?
- BRIEFLY share about what your family is like (to give some context). Consider the following contexts:
 - If your parents are single/divorced
 - Unbelieving family members
 - Parents who are great models of Christ
 - Difficulties relating to family because of cultural and generational differences
 - Family members experiencing difficulties with mental/physical health
 - Disagreements based on career choices
 - Disagreements based on dating/marriage
 - Disagreements based on the amount of independence you do or do not have ...etc.
- Questions to consider:
 - How do you react when you disagree with your parents (maybe they have asked you to do something you find is not glorifying to God)? How do you approach conflict resolution in light of the gospel?
 - How are you able to honor your family in a God glorifying way? Do you evangelize to them if they are non-believers, and do you remind them of the gospel if they are believers?
 - In what ways has your family been a blessing to you? How can you see God's grace to them, and God's grace to you through them?
 - How has God been faithful to you in difficult family situations?
 - How has your relationship with your parents changed as you have grown up? How do you anticipate it changing when they grow older?