

Eph. 6:1-4

I. Instruction to children: (1-3)

A. Children, obey your parents, because it is right to do so (1)

1. Children, obey your parents in the Lord (1a)

2. Reason: Because this is right (1b)

Obedience to parents is right as a universal standard based on God's revealed command

This does not command obedience to a parent's command which is against God's moral standard

B. Reason: God's Fifth Commandment both commands it and promises reward for it (2-3)

1. God's command with a promise (2)

a "Honor your father and mother" (2a)

Quoting the fifth of the Ten Commandments – Exod. 20:12

b Explanation: This is the first commandment with a promise (2b)

The promise (quoted in v. 3) is part of the original commandment

2. Purpose: So that you will be blessed (3)

a So that it will be well with you (3a)

i.e. so that you will prosper and experience that which is good

b And so that you will be/live a long time in the land (3b)

Longevity of life was a key mark of prosperity in Bible times

II. Instruction to Fathers [parents]: (4)

A. Neg: Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger (4a)

i.e. to cause someone to be provoked to anger

to act in such a way as the child is *unnecessarily* angered

The implication is injustice or unreasonable demands on the child

Normal discipline and demands upon the child are not addressed in this verse

There is a line to walk between being the child's 'friend' by letting them get away with bad behavior, and being such a hard disciplinarian that they resent and reject the parents' input and instruction

B. Pos: But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord (4b)

"discipline" = "to train someone in accordance with proper rules of conduct and behavior" L&N

"instruction" = to teach how to avoid error or improper conduct, to instruct in the right way to live