

Colossians – Chapter 3
“How to Teach Children the Blessings of Obedience”
Colossians 3:20-21

Verse 20

1. Here we have an admonition to children – *“obey your parents in all things...”*
2. Clearly, God expects kids to obey Mom and Dad. This means that they do what they’re told, when they’re told, without argument, backtalk, or disrespect.
3. We need to cross-reference this verse with Ephesians 6:1-3.
 - Verse 2 deals with the heart attitude of the child. Sometimes children obey because Mom and Dad are bigger and they really have no choice, but they do it with a very disrespectful attitude. Some parents think this is okay. But, when those little kids become teenagers, they become uncontrollable.
 - When you combine verses 1 and 2, here is what you have: kids are to obey their parents, and obey with a right attitude. As parents, we cannot accept anything less than that. As parents, it is our job to set godly boundaries, and then insure that our children stay in those boundaries. Why? *“... for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.” Colossians 3:20*
4. What about when children disobey? What about when children disregard the boundaries their parents have set? It is the **parents’** job to bring godly discipline, so that the child **learns** obedience. Ephesians 6:4 – *“admonition”* carries the idea of “discipline; rebuke.”
5. If the parents don’t teach the child obedience, they end up raising a rebellious, disobedient, and disrespectful child. If the child doesn’t learn obedience in the home, the child won’t exercise obedience in other areas of life (school, civil laws, work, God).
6. Parents, you cannot become permissive and allow your child to disobey without consequences. Why?
 - Because God is displeased when our children disobey – Colossians 3:20
 - Because we rob of our children of a blessing when we allow them to disobey – Ephesians 6:3
 - Because these patterns will follow the child into adulthood – Proverbs 22:6, 29:15
7. In so many homes, the children control the home. They call the shots. The parents allow the kids to make them miserable. This isn’t God’s plan. Proverbs 29:17
8. You are the parent; they are the kids. If they are going to disobey, **they** are the ones who should be miserable, not you. You should make their lives miserable (not to be mean). You do this in order to teach them the blessings of obedience.

Verse 21

1. Many times, we as parents can provoke our children to anger, and simply bring discouragement into their lives.

2. Many times, it is because our training is mostly negative. Our children are disciplined when they do wrong, but they receive very little positive training and instruction from us.
3. This is why Ephesians 6:4 instructs parents to “*provoke not your children to wrath: but **bring them up** in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.*” They need positive training and nurturing from a godly, biblical perspective.
 - Kids need time and attention, and when we neglect them, we can anger and discourage them greatly.
4. Another way we can discourage our children is when we discipline them in the wrong way. This is so easy to do as a parent. Here are some godly guidelines when it comes to disciplining our children:
 - **Never discipline with a revengeful motive.**
 - Discipline should always be future-oriented, not past-oriented (Hebrews 12:11). When they do wrong, we discipline them so they won’t do it again. Discipline helps them make wiser choices in the future.
 - **Never discipline with a judgmental, mean spirit.**
 - Discipline is related to behavior. Judgment is related to character. Godly discipline should not be character assassination (you stupid kid, dummy, idiot, lazy slob, brat, slut, etc.). You crush their spirit. Ephesians 4:29
 - When you attack their character, there is nothing they can do about that. You can’t change that on the spot. But, when you confront their behavior, there is something they can do about that. They can admit they are wrong, and choose to change.
 - **Always discipline in love.**
 - It is harder for your child to look into eyes of love when he is guilty than to look into eyes of vengeance. It is those eyes of love that will mold his future.
 - Before, during, and after you discipline your child, you should convey your unconditional love for the child. Even more than knowing you disapprove of their behavior, they should know that you love them.
 - **Never lose control during times of discipline.**
 - Many times, parents will warn repeatedly, until finally a parent lashes out in anger and frustration. You must take action before you lose self-control, and the best way to do that is not to give warnings. As soon as they fail to obey, deal with it swiftly in love.
 - **Discipline with each child may vary.**
 - Each child is unique and different. What works for one may not work for another.
 - Disciplining each child the same way is not what makes you a fair parent. Holding the same standards and values is what makes you fair.

5. Parents who maintain firm discipline while demonstrating genuine love, and also spend adequate amounts of time with their children, will usually have well-adjusted children.