

**THE STUDY OF EPHESIANS**  
**LESSON 21**  
**EPHESIANS 6:1-4**  
**QUESTIONS**  
**THE RESPONSIBILITIES OF CHILDREN AND PARENTS**

Pray for the Holy Spirit to reveal truth and wisdom as you go through this lesson.

**Read Ephesians 6:1-4**

In our recent study of Ephesians 5:22-33 the Apostle Paul has instructed us on the right kind of marriage relationship. Now he adds that the right kind of family relationship is also built on a redeemed life and powered and energized by the Holy Spirit in obedience to the Word of God.

1. *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord”* (6:1). This phrase implies that teaching and instruction of the child has occurred before this point. What is the situation of the child’s heart in order that he/she may be able to obey?

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2. In verses 1-2 Paul tells children to obey and honor their parents. How would you define obedience and honor? What would it look like if you had one without the other?

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3. Children, obey your parents... but for how long? What should obedience and honor look like when children becomes adults? See Exodus 20:12.

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4. The Apostle Paul gives us three reasons why we should obey and honor our parents. What are they? *Use the extra verses sited to further explain each answer.*

1. Eph. 6:1; Ps. 19:8; Hos. 14:9 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Eph.6:2; Deut. 6:24 \_\_\_\_\_

3. Eph. 6:3; Jer. 7:23; Deut. 28:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_

5. Although Jesus was perfectly divine and free from sin, as a child even He had to grow in the ways every child grows. As you examine these verses describing Jesus as a child, what insights do you glean as to how a child's heart should be directed and instructed? (NASB)

Luke 2:46-47 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 2:49 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 2:51 \_\_\_\_\_

Luke 2:52 \_\_\_\_\_

6. Paul gives us a command in verse 4, "*Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger.*" Colossians 3:21 says "*Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.*" What does it mean to *provoke*? List some primary ways parents tend to provoke and discourage their children.

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7. According to these verses, what would be a provocation to our children and what would instead, be a blessing. (NASB)

Eph. 4:29 \_\_\_\_\_

Eph. 4:31-32 \_\_\_\_\_

Matt. 23:1-4 \_\_\_\_\_

Gal. 1:10 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 12:18 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 13:3 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 13:12 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 15:1 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 16:22 \_\_\_\_\_

Prov. 17:22 \_\_\_\_\_

8. Paul tells his readers to *“bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord”* (6:4). What do you think this means in practical terms? What does discipline “outside” of Christ look like? Read Deut. 6:4-9 to help with your answer.

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9. What are some ways in which our society today is at odds with Paul’s teaching in 6:1-4? How does the state of our culture reflect the truth behind Paul’s words?

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**\*\*\*EXTRA CREDIT \*\*\***

Whether you have young children or grown children, there must be times when you know that you have provoked your children. What are some of these times? Is this a recurring problem? What has the Lord shown you about this sin? What did you do about it? Share scripture that has helped you most in this area.

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