

SERMON OUTLINE Colossians 3:18-4:1

Christian Homes - Parents and Children

THE BIGGER STORY OF PARENTING

Rooted in God's Creation

Rooted in God's Nature

Rooted in God's Aim

CHILDREN OBEY (20)

Children

Obey Your Parents

In Everything

For this Pleases the Lord

FATHERS ENCOURAGE (21)

Fathers

Command Your Children

Without Tempting them to Be Discouraged

1. *By not giving commands*
2. *By giving too many commands*
3. *By giving inconsistent commands*
4. *By having inconsistent consequences for disobedience*
5. *By giving commands according to our selfish desires*
6. *By being harsh with our commands*
7. *By giving commands that we don't follow ourselves*
8. *By failing to move from obedience to influence*
9. *By failing to help your kids see the root of your commands*
10. *By failing to teach them the hope of the gospel*

PUTTING IT INTO PRACTICE

1. *Pray constantly*
2. *Model consistently*
3. *Win every time when they are young. Root more and more of your parenting in the bigger story as they get older.*

SERMON DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

MAIN POINT

The big idea of 20-21 is that one critical aspect of enduring persecution and living according to our new natures in Christ, in light of the preeminence of Jesus, is children pleasingly obeying their parents, and fathers encouragingly commanding their children. That's also the main takeaway.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What were your thoughts on the text/sermon? What most stood out? How was it helpful? Confusing?
2. Do you tend to be more of a "balconeer" or a "traveler"? How does that show up in your life? How can you grow in both?
3. Is it new or surprising to you that both marriage and parenting are rooted in God's creation, nature, and aim? Which of those truths do you need to focus on most for your family?
4. What is one way you need to apply the gospel more fully to your family life right now?
5. What is or was the hardest aspect of obeying your parents? Does that show up at all in your obedience to God?
6. How do/did your parents use their God-given authority well? Discouragingly? How have/will you parent similarly/differently?
7. Which of the ten temptations to discouragement have you found to be most provoking?
8. Which of Pastor Dave's three keys to putting this into practice do you most need to focus on right now?
9. What help do you need to obey well as a kid or command well as a parent?
10. In what way/s did the sermon help you see the greatness of God?

AREAS OF APPLICATION

11. Make a list of the ways your obedience as a child or commands as a parent are like and dislike the Father and Son.
12. Kids, pick one area that you consistently struggle to obey. Confess that to God and your parents. Pray for God's help and thank Him for His forgiveness. Talk to your parents about how they can help you obey more consistently.
13. Parents, pick one area you consistently provoke your kids to discouragement. Confess that to God and your kids. Pray for God's help and thank Him for His forgiveness. Talk to your kids about how you can provoke them less.
14. Pray constantly
15. Model consistently
16. Win every time when they are young. Root more and more of your parenting in the bigger story as they get older.
17. Come to the G2g parenting time to get the help you need or give the help you have.
18. Find or become a parenting mentor at Grace Church.
19. Pick one specific thing you mean to do differently, with the Spirit's help, as a result of the things you heard in this text/sermon.

PRAYER POINTS

20. Adoration. Praise God that He is Creator. Praise God that He is Triune. Praise the Son that He willingly submits to the Father's will. Praise God that all that He is and does is fitting. Praise God that He is love and that He is encouraging.
21. Confession. Confess ways that you've failed to obey your parents in a manner pleasing to the Lord. Confess ways you've provoked your kids to discouragement. Confess areas you've rooted your family in other than God's creation, nature, or aim.
22. Thanksgiving. Thank God that He is gracious in Christ—that we are new creations, forgiven, able to forgive, accepted by God, free from sin's slavery, free to enter God's presence, hopeful, and filled with the Spirit, and the good news this is for family.
23. Supplication. Ask God to help you command and obey in a manner pleasing to the Lord and honoring to your family. Ask God to help us help one another at Grace to follow Jesus well in our role within our family. Ask God to help you be content as you navigate hardship within your family or wait for a family of your own.