

Blueprints for a Dad

Ephesians 6:1-2 (KJV)

“1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.
2 Honour thy father and mother;(which is the first commandment with promise)”

This is an important passage, not only for the day of Paul, but for every generation

- * It is particularly crucial for our day and time
- * Our generation is a generation of problem children and problem parents, and one of the major causes of the tension is the failure to heed the instructions of God's Word
- * But I want to first thank God for all the Good Dads!
- * The Dads who did do and are doing the Dad Thing Right!
- * Dad you may not be a bad Dad – you may not have been taught!
- * So all I can say is – But My God Has A Blueprint for you!

Children and parents are to walk together under God's authority

- * Children are to obey their parents

The word "obey" [hupakouō] means to submit to; to comply with; to hearken; to heed; to follow the directions or guidance of some instruction

- * When a parent guides and directs a child, the child is to obey the parent
- * But what about the problems that are so repulsively evident in society: the problems of parental abuse—the problems of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and mental abuse?

Is a child to obey a parent when the parent is so devilishly wrong?

No! A thousand times no!

Children and parents are to walk together under God's authority

Somebody shout- WE ARE TO BE IN THE LORD!

2.

Ephesians 6:1 (KJV)

“1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right”

First, to obey means to obey in the Lord

*** Note the command again:**

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord"

The phrase "in the Lord" (en kuri)

*** Simply there is a limit to the child's obedience**

*** The Lord has nothing whatsoever to do with the filth of unrighteousness and abuse of precious children –no matter the age**

*** The Lord came to set men free from the abuse and the filth of sin, not to enslave men to it, and especially not to enslave children to it**

Mark 9:42-48

"And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea.

And if thy hand offend thee [by abusing a child], cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

And if thy foot offend thee [by abusing a child], cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. And if thine eye offend thee [by lusting after a child], pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched"

One of the most severe warnings ever issued in all of history was issued by the Lord Jesus to adults who abuse children

Illustration

- * Some men in a pickup truck drove into a lumberyard.
 - * One of the men walked in the office and said, 'We need some four-by-twos.' The clerk said, 'You mean two-by-fours, don't you?'
 - * The man said, 'I'll go check,' and went back to the truck.
 - * He returned in a minute and said, 'Yeah, I meant two-by-fours.' '
 - * All right - How long do you need them?'
- The customer paused for a minute and said, 'I'd better go check'
- * After awhile, the customer returned to the office and said, 'A long time. * We're gonna build a house.'
- WOULDN'T YOU HATE TO SEE THAT HOUSE THEY BUILT ?**

All people are builders in some form or another

- * Probably the greatest building we do is in regard to people.
- * *We're all building people*, because *we all influence people* and hopefully, for God and for good in life.

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

- * Do you realize that you, too, are a builder of people?
- * It might be your children, your grandchildren but it might also be someone else's children and others adults and young people.

YOU ARE A BUILDER!

- * We all must realize that God is the greatest builder of all....He builds people in ways we never could!

Hebrews 3:4-5 (KJV)

“4 For every house is builded by some man; but he that built all things is God.

5 And Moses verily was faithful in all his house, as a servant, for a testimony of those things which were to be spoken after...”

**God is the builder of everything that is good and holy and right and
God is in the business building of good fathers as well**

**For Father's Day I would like to share a few thoughts about
Parenting – about Dads – about Fathers of the Faith**

Illustration

**There is a story about a father who became disturbed about the
length of time his six-year-old son was taking to get home from
school.**

**The father decided he would make the trip to discover for himself
how long it should take a small boy to cover the distance**

**The father settled on 20 minutes but his son was still taking an
hour.... Finally the father decided to make the trip with his son**

**After the trip, the father said, "The 20 minutes I thought reasonable
was right, but I failed to consider such important things as a side
trip to track down a trail of ants...or an educational stop to watch a
man fix a flat...or the time it took to swing around a half dozen
telephone poles...or how much time it took for a boy just to get
acquainted with two stray dogs and a brown cat.**

**"In short," said the father, "I had forgotten what it is really like to
be six years old"**

**Can I tell you that I learn this lesson daily here at Cross Tab. with
over 100 children in our Day Care and Preparatory School – I along
with our wonderful teachers and staff are reminded just what is in
the minds, hearts and yes what comes out of the mouths of babes**

*** I can tell you that it is a great blessing for me to be in this
atmosphere**

*** I can tell you also that it is a very powerful challenge**

*** I can tell you that it also is a great test that must be passed**

This Church has a defined place in the life of a child!

* The CBS news program 48 Hours did an investigation into the children of some famous people and how they were influenced by what they saw from their parents while growing up.

* On this program there was an interview with James Raymond, who is the son of a famous person.

* You couldn't identify his famous father by his name, however, because he was adopted shortly after birth.

* He was raised by a California family who kept his adoption records sealed until he was 31

* That was when Raymond discovered that his natural father is David Crosby of the group Crosby, Stills, and Nash

* Raymond's habits, preferences, and attitudes were more closely related to his adoptive parents than his natural father

His behavior and beliefs reflected those of the parents who raised him and what is good came not from ancestry but from what he saw happening in his parent's lives.

Example is apparently more powerful than heritage

Genesis 31:11-14 (KJV)

“And the angel of God spake unto me in a dream, saying, Jacob: And I said, Here am I.

12 And he said, Lift up now thine eyes, and see, all the rams which leap upon the cattle are ringstraked, speckled, and grised: for I have seen all that Laban doeth unto thee.

13 I am the God of Bethel, where thou anointedst the pillar, and where thou vowedst a vow unto me: now arise, get thee out from this land, and return unto the land of thy kindred.

14 And Rachel and Leah answered and said unto him, Is there yet any portion or inheritance for us in our father's house?

Genesis 31: 15-16 [KJV]

15 Are we not counted of him strangers? for he hath sold us, and hath quite devoured also our money.

16 For all the riches which God hath taken from our father, that is ours, and our children's: now then, whatsoever God hath said unto thee, do"

- * Parents and fathers do set an example for our children to follow
- * Be it good or bad, they **often** do walk in our steps
- * Many young people, for example, have been raised by hard-working parents and they, too, became hard-working adults
- * Many young people, for example have been raised by Godly parents and they become Godly parents

Now we all know that this is not so cut and dry, but the context of the meaning is that influence is the key to direction

* Sometimes even the best Godly Fathering and nurturing of a God Mother is overshadowed by a key influence that may sway the direction of a child.

I Corinthians 11:1

"Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ"

Following God is the most important thing in life
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- * **Following God** gives fulfillment and purpose, a fulfillment and purpose that is deep within and that lasts forever
- * **Following God** fills us with happiness and joy, the deepest happiness and joy imaginable, the most secure happiness and joy that can be possessed

Genesis 31:2-3 (KJV)

2 And Jacob beheld the countenance of Laban, and, behold, it was not toward him as before.

3 And the Lord said unto Jacob, Return unto the land of thy fathers, and to thy kindred; and I will be with thee"

Jacob a husband and father was seeing a change in his relationship with his father-in-law

- * **But more than that – God was about to call Jacob to make a decision to follow Him**
- * **Remember the Father influence one of Godly decisions even when it comes to family members**

Remember Jacob and Laban were not only family Fathers but also business partners

- * **Jacob sensed that Laban could move against him at any moment with force, break the contract, and take the herds from him**
- * **His life, family, money, and possessions were at risk**
- * **Laban's sons were jealous at the blessings Jacob had and felt he had taken their inheritance away**

**What was Jacob to do?
How could he save everything?
Jacob did not know
But God knew**

God knew that Jacob needed to return to Canaan, return to the promised land

- * **Thus God spoke to Jacob and told him to return**
- * **If Jacob would return—strike out and follow God—then God would be with him**

The idea is that God would take care of him, protecting and providing for him all throughout the journey

- * **Jacob's responsibility was to obey, to just follow God and strike out for the promised land.**

Remember, the promised land is a symbol, a type of heaven

- * The thought is this: if Jacob obeyed and followed God, he would be saved and delivered from the threatening situation
- * If he did not obey and follow God, then he would lose everything and be held in bondage to the world of Laban for the rest of his life
- * Not only that but this Father would also pass bondage on to his family.

Threatening situations can keep us from following God

- * We can be thinking about following God or already committed to following God and before we know it, a threatening situation arises that stops us dead in our tracks

Once we make a commitment to follow God, all kinds of threats stand before us, threats such as...

- ridicule and persecution
- having to give up the bright lights and pleasures of this world
- losing a promotion or some business deal
- losing friends or a girl or boy friend
- losing money, business, property, and possessions

Come on now Dads – help me now!

There are always threatening situations, obstacles that can keep us from following God

- * But the call of God to us is the same as it was to Jacob: to strike out for the promised land of heaven
- * If we obey, if we will truly follow Him, then He will be with us and lead us into the promised land of heaven
- * If we will understand the call on our Father-ship – the God commanded anointing upon Fatherhood we will see breakthrough

Genesis 28:15

"And, behold, I am with thee, and will keep thee in all places whither thou goest, and will bring thee again into this land; for I will not leave thee, until I have done that which I have spoken to thee of"

Exodus 33:14

"And he said, My presence shall go with thee, and I will give thee rest"

Psalms 48:14

"For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death"

Psalms 73:24

"Thou shalt guide me with thy counsel, and afterward receive me to glory"

Psalms 143:10

"Teach me to do thy will; for thou art my God: thy spirit is good; lead me into the land of uprightness"

Isaiah 43:2

"When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned; neither shall the flame kindle upon thee"

John 14:2-3

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if [it were] not [so], I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, [there] ye may be also"

CONCLUSION**I Corinthians 3:7**

"So neither he who plants nor he who waters is anything, but only God, who makes things grow"

*** Not only does God make things grow, He also builds people and builds them well**

*** We must understand that Fathers need to plant and water and trust God to give the increase – in every part of our life!**

*** Father does know best!**