



**Key Thought:** More important than the particular problems we are dealing with, are the patterns of our lives.

**Key Question:** How do we raise children according to God's gospel priorities?

**Read Ephesians 6:1-4**

### **Foundation Responsibilities:**

*Trust in the Lord makes us move beyond the foundation of relationships to the responsibilities that God describes in His Word and helps us understand what is required. Children are responsible for obeying (actions) and honoring (attitude) their parents. According to the pattern of scripture, parents have the prime authority and responsibility for raising their children, spiritually nurturing their hearts.*

#### **1) Why is it good for children to “obey” but also “honor” their parents? (vv. 1-3)**

- Our tendency is to be open-handed with a child when they are very young and then when they are teens we try to clamp down. What's the result? (see Prov 13:24) What is the biblical approach?
- How might just aiming to get good behavior out of children be damaging to what God is intending?
- What will encourage children to not just obey but to honor their parents with their attitude?

#### **2) Explain the biblical perspective, “parents raise children”. What do presence and priority have to do with this, as well? (v. 4)**

- Give examples of when you have seen parents prioritizing the spiritual nurturing of their children.
- The pandemic allows us an opportunity to recalibrate our family activities for now and as things open back up. Regarding the spiritual nurturing of the children in your lives, what changes would be helpful?

### **Foundation Instructions:**

*The biblical instruction the Lord gives in Ephesians 6:4 is aimed at parents. It tells us what parents should not do and what they should do in the raising of their children. The focus is on the patterns of the parents own living needing to consistently reflect what they require of their kids .*

#### **2) What does hypocrisy have to do with exasperating children? When do children become exasperated? (v. 4)**

#### **3) What does it mean to bring children up in the “discipline and instruction of the Lord”? (v. 4)**

- What part does the uniqueness of a child play in determining the kind of discipline and instruction they need to receive?
- What parenting situations have left you stumped lately? By sharing you may help yourself and others.

### **Q's for Kids: (Read Eph 6:1-4)**

- 1) Why does God say kids should obey and honor their parents?
- 2) What do you think it means to “honor” your parents?
- 3) What are things mom or dad does that reminds you of Jesus and his love?