

“Biblical Manhood and Womanhood”
(Godly Parenting, Part 12)

I. Godly Parenting: “Honor your father and mother.”

A. Review.

1. Several lessons ago, we considered what it means to be a godly young man or woman as you are growing up: You are to honor your father and your mother as they govern you and prepare you for life.

- a. Do you remember what it means to honor those in authority over you?
 - (i) It means to listen respectfully when they speak to you.
 - (ii) It means to treat them respectfully when you speak to them and what you say of them.
 - (iii) It means to learn what they’re teaching you.
 - (iv) It means to submit to them as they exercise the authority the Lord has given them over you – without delay, complaint, or argument.

b. Who’s example are you to follow?

- (i) Jesus: “And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them” (Luke 2:51).
- (ii) Why did Jesus submit to His parents?
 - (a) To fulfill all righteousness.
 - (1) God commands it.
 - (2) He had to obey all the commandments to save you.

(b) As an example for you to follow.

c. Why should you submit to your parents?

- (i) Because the Lord requires it.
- (ii) Because He has given them to you to prepare you for life.
 - (a) They are to teach you the Gospel, Biblical morality, life skills, and help you find your vocation.
 - (b) The Lord has ordained that you benefit from their experience.

2. You are to honor your father and mother by submitting to them as they seek to do this.

B. Godly Parenting. When you become parents, now it’s your turn to do the same for the next generation.

1. This is what the Lord requires of you, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).

- a. He put them in your family for a reason – they are your responsibility.
- b. He will hold you accountable for this as any other part of your stewardship.
 - (i) You are to teach them what to believe and how to live in a way honoring

to the Lord.

- (ii) And you are to provide the necessary discipline to ensure that they do.
 - (a) Solomon promotes the rod – “Do not hold back discipline from the child, although you strike him with the rod, he will not die” (Prov. 23:13) – which in many cases is necessary.
 - (b) But as they grow, the rod may take other forms, such as talking, revoking privileges, meeting out additional responsibilities, etc.
- (iii) Both father and mother are to be involved in teaching and preparing. “My son, observe the commandment of your father and do not forsake the teaching of your mother; bind them continually on your heart; tie them around your neck. When you walk about, they will guide you; when you sleep, they will watch over you; and when you awake, they will talk to you. For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life” (Prov. 6:20-23).

2. There is a fine line you need to walk.

- a. On the one hand, you need to make sure they don’t go their own way.
 - (i) “Train up a child in the way he should go, even when he is old he will not depart from it” (Prov. 22:6).
 - (a) Certainly a good pattern will be a lifelong help – you should devote yourself to raising your children in the way they should go.
 - (b) Solomon doesn’t mean you can train them into the kingdom.
 - (ii) This may more accurately be translated, “Train up a child according to his own way, even when he is old he will not depart from it” (ibid.).
 - (a) If you let them go their own way in their youth, it will be a lifelong pattern that won’t easily be broken.
 - (b) Only God’s grace can ultimately break it – whether young or old – though if it isn’t broken when they’re young, that person may struggle their whole lives.
- b. On the other hand, you must raise them in a way that doesn’t provoke them to anger.
 - (i) Again, “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord” (Eph. 6:4).
 - (ii) And, “Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart” (Col. 3:21).
 - (iii) The idea here is not to make them resentful, or embitter them. What can cause this?
 - (a) To be unreasonable, overbearing, harsh, micro-managing.
 - (b) Not to instruct and discipline in love.
 - (c) Should we let them have what we know is bad for them so they won’t get angry? No, you can’t.
 - (1) Just make sure that you’re not provoking them to anger through your lack of patience or love.

- (2) Hopefully and prayerfully, they will accept what is right.
- c. Remember, that as they grow, they need to have more of the decision making power given over to them.
- (i) They need complete direction at the beginning.
 - (ii) As they mature, allow them to begin making their own decisions, take on more responsibility.
 - (iii) The goal is to train them to be godly and independent (self-governing, as well as self-supporting).
3. Finally, don't forget that as you're raising them you need to seek for their salvation.
- a. Everyone should either seek or be sought.
- (i) If you're not a believer, you should seek that the Lord might save you.
 - (ii) If you are a believer, you should seek to enter into God's kingdom.
 - (iii) If you're a believer, you should seek to bring the lost to Christ, since they can't seek for themselves.
 - (a) You should seek for your neighbors.
 - (b) You should seek for your children.
- b. How do you seek for their salvation?
- (i) Realize that though the Lord has a relationship with them because of you, they are not going to be saved automatically – they must repent and believe.
 - (ii) To repent and believe, they need two things: The outward call – by the Gospel – and the inward call – by the Spirit.
 - (a) You can give them the outward call by explaining the Gospel to them, urging them to repent, bringing them to the services, Wednesday classes, Youth meetings.
 - (b) You can't give them the inward call, but you can pray and seek the Lord that He might as you continue to urge them with the outward call.
- c. Never give up seeking the Lord for them.
- (i) If they're not converted, don't give up – pray as long as you have breath.
 - (ii) If they are converted, don't give up either – continue to pray and seek for the Lord's blessing on their spiritual journey as long as you can.
 - (iii) Prayer does make a difference.
 - (a) It's the means the Lord uses to accomplish His will.
 - (b) It's not bombarding the decree of God from without.
 - (c) It's something He's included in His decree.
 - (d) This is again something both father and mother should be doing.
 - (e) Pray that your children would reach heaven by His grace.