

# What Do Children Owe Their Parents

Psalms 127:3-5

## Introduction:

- A. Good children are such a blessing to parents (Psa. 127:3-5; cf. 3 John 1:4).
- B. Bad children are such a heartache to parents.
  - 1. David's son Absalom (2 Sam. 18:33)
  - 2. Rebellious son under the law (Deut. 21:18-20).
- C. All children owe their parents perhaps much more than they realize.
- D. The Bible teaches three outstanding debts that children owe their parents.

## Discussion:

### I. Children Owe Their Parents *Obedience* (Eph. 6:1)

- A. The reasons for obedience.
  - 1. It is right (Eph. 6:1)
  - 2. It pleases our Lord (Col. 3:20)
- B. The extent of obedience.
  - 1. "In all things" – not just what suits the child.
  - 2. One limitation – "in the Lord" (cf. Acts 5:29).
- C. The time of obedience.
  - 1. No specific age revealed – only principles.
  - 2. Child in two senses: 1) a child under parents' guardianship, care, protection; 2) an offspring.
  - 3. Until he is "of age" (cf. John 9:21); capable of "leaving" father's house and be on his own.
  - 4. Those the father is "bringing up" (v. 4)
  - 5. My dad used to say, "As long as you set your feet under my table..."
  - 6. "Obey" when a child, but "honor" always.
- D. The learning of obedience (cf. v. 4 - ASV)
  - 1. Through "admonition" – "calling attention to" (Strong)
  - 2. Through "chastening" (cf. Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 23:13, 14; 29:15)

### II. Children Owe Their Parents *Honor* (Eph. 6:2)

- A. Honor them for their person and position.
  - 1. By speaking to and about them respectfully.
  - 2. By always showing them respect and dignity.
- B. Honor them because of what they have done for you.
  - 1. They brought you into the world (Cf. "Didn't ask to be born...")
  - 2. They cared for you until you could care for yourself
- C. Honor them because God commands it.
- D. Honor them financially when needed (Matt. 15:4-6; cf. "honorarium"; 1 Tim. 5:3, 17, 18)

### III. Children Owe Their Parents *Repayment* (1 Tim. 5:4)

- A. Repay them in money if they need it.
  - 1. Consider what it cost to raise you (\$562 per mo. for low income families yr. 2000)
  - 2. Consider what cost to prepare you to be on your own.
- B. Repay them in other ways, if they do not need money.

## Conclusion:

- A. Really, we can never totally repay our parents.
- B. When we are "under their roof" we can give them obedience.
- C. When we are "on our own" we can continue to honor them.