



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Study to show "The Way of True Life." Bible Study Outline

TOPIC: **God's Design for Parents & Children**
TEXT: **Ephesians 6:1-4**

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone can participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: Teenagers say they are in trouble because their parents are selfish and don't care about or listen to them. Parents say their teenagers are in trouble because they don't listen and want to have everything their way. Whatever the reasons, many families are sharply divided because parents and children can't get along. Husbands and wives who find happiness by following God's principle of mutual submission discover that the same principle relates to bringing up children. Ephesians 6:1-4 reveals that neither parents nor children should be dominated by the other.

Discussion Questions:

1. As you were growing up, what were your most satisfying experiences with your parents?
1. Paul continues to explain the meaning of "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (Ephesians 5:21). What effect would it have on parents and children if they submitted to one another to please Christ?
2. You may have grown up with a win-lose atmosphere in every family conflict. What difference would mutual submission have made in your struggles to mature?
3. Why is God's basic command to children: "Obey your parents" (vs. 1-3)?
4. The command to "honor your father and mother" is part of God's Ten Commandments. In Genesis 2:24, we saw that a man should leave his father and mother and cleave to his wife. How can we continue to honor our parents after leaving home?
5. Why should the first command to fathers be something they should not do?
6. What attitudes and actions of parents enrage children? How can parents teach children to obey without frustrating them?
7. Instead of frustrating their children, fathers are to "bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord" (v. 4). What are the differences between training and instruction?

8. Children need training in things like honesty, respecting other's property, respecting authority, making choices, and taking responsibility. In what practical ways can a parent give training in these areas?

9. In what different ways can parents instruct their children? What areas or topics do you (or would you) most want to instruct your children?

10. What are some ways you have learned (from your experience or observing others) to manage the demands that training and instruction put on parents' time, attention, and patience?