

STUDY & DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR

MAY 10, 2020

COLOSSIANS 3:20-21

²⁰ Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. ²¹ Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they will not lose heart.

STUDY IT

- When you hear the word “obedient”, what do you think? Does this word carry positive or negative connotations? Why do you think that is?
- How is *obedience*¹ similar to/different from *submission*? In John 14:15, how does Jesus teach a similar command to his followers?
- Jesus’ identity as a *son* is a special theme in the Gospels. How does he reveal his obedience to his Father?
- Paul’s instructions include a personal word to children – who are assumed to be in attendance in the Colossae church gathering(s). How might this reveal an important part of family life for worship and community?
- In his parallel teaching in **Ephesians 6:1-3**, Paul expounds more about the benefits to obedience. Why might obedience to parents please the Lord?²
- What does Paul mean when he instructs parents to “not exasperate” their children?
- Can you think of some Old Testament examples of how God spoke to Israel *like they were his children*?
- How has God demonstrated his own parenthood to his people?

¹ “Be Obedient/obey” – *hupakuo* – comes from two words *under* and *listen*.

² See Exodus 20:12 and consider how God might use *obedience* to both teach his people about Himself and *bless* them through their obedience.

- What is the difference between *discouragement* and *discipline*?
- In **Ephesians 6:4**, what does Paul suggest? Why might this be a valuable “parenting tip”?

APPLY IT

- Paul initially gave instructions to husbands and wives. (v.18-19) How might a healthy marriage be a priority before children-parent relationships?
- Somewhere in our maturation into adulthood, we move from obedience to parents to something *else*. What comes next in our relationships with our parents?
- How might we still display obedience *as adults* to our parents?
- As a parent, have you struggled with provoking your children? How have you seen that bring discouragement?
- Children *and* parents, how can you ask the Holy Spirit to help you in your obedience and encouragement, respectively?

REFLECT ON IT

- **Children:** Write down your thoughts on why *obedience* to your parents is a healthy part of your relationship with your parents.
- **Parents:** Write down your thought on how your parenting style does (or can) bring more encouragement into your children’s lives.