

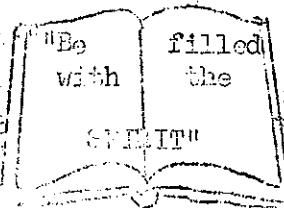
THE SPIRIT-FILLED HOME
HUSBAND AND WIFE
PARENT AND CHILDREN

EPHESIANS 5:17-33

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

These two messages on the "Spirit-Filled Home" were preached by Bro. Ronald Dunn, pastor of the McArthur Blvd. Baptist Church of Irving Texas. These sermons were recorded on tape and taken from the tape to the printed form.

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THE SPIRIT FILLED HOME

Husband and Wife

Ephesians 5:17-33

I find in the book of Ephesians that the Apostle Paul begins in Heaven and ends up in the home and that is always a good place to end up with Spiritual Truths. The message this morning will be on the Spirit-filled Home. We will begin reading in Ephesians 5:17-33.

A great many Christian people are interested in knowing what the "Will of God" is. Now if you want to understand what the Will of God is for your life, in verse seventeen Paul informs us.

Read Ephesians 5:17-33:

Now a Christian home is not a home where all members are Christians. Many of us think we have a christian home because we are christians. that is not necessarily true. When I speak to you this morning, I speak to you with a heart that is burdened and grieved because every year when I return from the convention I hear of former college mates, Seminary Colleague, whose ministry has left them, or they have left the ministry because of a break-up in the home life and it is getting to be a sad thing. Practically every week or every month I hear of a preacher, pastor, an Evangelist that I know, that I went to school with that has been mightily used of God, that has a broken home, divorced. Now what I am going to say this morning, folks, I am trying to help you.

Many of us would be absolutely shocked if we knew the family problems that are represented right here in this congregation. I would be shocked if I knew the family problems that are right here in my own congregation. All of us would be shocked to realize that people sitting right around us, Sunday school teachers, Deacons, great christian people whom God has blessed, if their homes are not breaking up, they are right on the verge of breaking up. And I am fast being convinced that the number one problem in America and the American Church today

is at this very point, The Christian Home.

A member of an other church told me recently, "I have heard a good many sermons on the home but I never took them seriously because the pastor always joked about it so much during the course of the sermon." Actually it is not a joking matter. God intended Heaven on earth to be exemplified in the home. There is nothing that can be so much like Heaven on earth, when the home is a Christian Home. But friends, there is nothing that can be so much like Hell when it is not so. And what you are at home is what you are! I don't care how religious, pious, spiritual you are up here at the church, that doesn't make a bit of difference, what you are when you are alone, is what you are.

All of us can live a public life pretty well decent, it is easy to live a public life. It is what a man, woman, boy or girl is in private life that really reveals what they are. And what you are at home is what you are! If you don't have it at home, you just don't have it as far as God is concerned. And until the Christian principals by which you live, by which you teach, by which you expound within these four walls, until they pervade and control and are exhibited in your home, you are a phony and I am a phony.

Now I am trying to help you and God wants to help you. God knows more about this home business than anyone around, because He is the inventor. I don't know much of anything about an automobile, and when something goes wrong, I take it to someone who makes them, for they know something about them. When something goes wrong with my television set, I don't take it to a dentist, I take it to someone who knows something about it.

You know what is wrong with the home today? When something goes wrong with the home they take it to somebody who doesn't know anything about it. And that is just as ridiculous as taking a broken watch to a Dentist. I would take it to someone who knows something about it. Now, what I want us to do this morning is to take our home to the Matchmaker, instead of the watchmaker.

Now the Bible tells us right here in this passage what the home is to be like. Now, I said at the beginning that a Christian Home is not a home where the members are Christian. And I make this statement because as I have already mentioned by all these preachers and evangelists whose homes are breaking up and they are Christians, have been mightily used of God. A Christian is not a home where members are Christians. A Christian Home is a home in which members of that family are Spirit-filled and Spirit-controlled. That is the only thing that will make the difference and the only way your home is ever going to be what it ought to be, to be that Heaven on earth, glorify God, bless humanity, when the Spirit of God fills and controls those who are responsible in the home. That is what Paul is talking about. This whole passage that deals with husband and wife and children and parent relationship is a result of that command being obeyed in verse eighteen: "and be not drunk with wine wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit." Be controlled by the Spirit of God. Then when the Spirit of God controls, then all these other things can fall in place.

The Christian Home is a home in which the people in the home are possessed by and controlled by the Spirit of God. Now, you know why that is so, It is so because no one can be filled with the Spirit until first of all they are emptied of themselves.

Do you know what personality clashes are? Husband and wife have personality conflicts, personality clashes. Do you know what personality conflicts are between husband and wife? It is my self-life irritating your self-life. By the way, you can carry that out farther than the home. Do you know what it is that causes personality clashes among workers, Christian workers, organizations, it is my self-life rubbing against your self-life. In any area, political, social, it is one self-life irritating another self life. And so God starts at the right place and I want you to get the significance of the arrangement God has made.

First of all, He says to be filled with the Spirit. That means that I must be emptied of self and cannot always be thinking in terms of what I want myself. I must come to the place where I empty my life of my own selfish desires and ambitions. I dethrone the big "I", my ego is put out of place, out of commission. Then the Spirit of God can come and take over and control and pravade. You see, what the Bible is saying is that the Spiritual relationship must come before the physical relationship. Here is where we have missed it friends. Spiritual relationship is more important and is the foundation for physical relationship.

One day some people came to Jesus and said: "Master, your mother and your brothers are outside and they want to see you." Jesus said, "Who is my mother, who is my brother?" And Jesus waved His arms unto the multitude that were there and said, "Whosoever does the will of my Father in Heaven, the same is my brother, my sister and my mother."

What was Jesus saying? Jesus was saying the unifying relationship is not blood and is not physical, it is spiritual. Jesus hung on the Cross He tended to business before He died, to fulfill the Scripture. He saw His mother standing there. John, His disciple beside her. He had to have someone take care of His mother. Evidently Joseph was dead. There had to be some one to take care of His mother since Jesus was the eldest son in the family. It was His responsibility to care for His mother.

What did He do? He said: "John, you take my mother home and you treat her as your mother. Mother, you treat John as your son." Now why did Jesus do that when Mary had physical sons all around her? Because these physical sons she had were unbelievers at that time. They thought Jesus was crazy. What Jesus was enunciating on the Cross is the principal that Spiritual relationship is more vital and more important than physical relationship. Spirit is thicker than blood is what Jesus is saying.

And it is the person who makes a partner anyway in a marriage. Some one has said that marriage creates a lot of problems, but I disagree with that. Marriage does not create any problems, it only exposes problems that already were in existence. Marriage does not create problems those problems rise to the surface like dead fish on a stagnant pond, when that person has never learned to empty himself of himself and meets a person that has never learned to empty herself of herself and they irritate each other and they say that marriage has created problems. It has not, it has only exposed the problems you have never solved. This is why the Spiritual relationship must first of all be proper. "Be filled with the Spirit" and as you are emptied of self and filled with the Spirit, then you are going to be able to obey these commands and have a Spirit-filled home.

Alright, we are going to take two of them this morning.

First of all we will take the Spirit-filled wife and then the Spirit-filled husband. Now, I am sorry wife, in any message you hear on the home, you always come first. That's the way God did it and I don't know any way to improve on it.

"The Spirit-filled wife". What is the relationship between the wife and the husband. Husband, don't sit there nudging your wife while I am preaching. I will get to you in a minute. And let me say right here your responsibility in the home far outweighs the responsibility of your wife. I will just say it at the outset and anticipate a little bit, husband, father, if your home isn't what it ought to be, you are to blame. You say, "You don't know my wife; she is rebellious, she is not sexual, that doesn't make a bit of difference. When Adam and Eve sinned against God, that home broke the vows of God, Who did God blame? He blamed Adam. And in any home where the home is not what it ought to be Spiritually, it is the father, the husband who is to blame.

Alright, I think you can sum up the wife's duty to the husband, the relationship to the husband by this expression: "UNSELFISH SUBMISSION" Look at verse 22: "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord." Now the word submit is a military word that describes the relationship that one inferior officer has to a superior officer. It has to do with rank. Now let me hasten to say, it has nothing to do with whether or not the woman is the weaker sex or that the man is better than the woman. I know what he is talking about. They are all equal in God's sight as far as the person is concerned, This has to do with rank and the word "Submit" means to place oneself in line under another person. To be in submission, to recognize that another person has superior rank, not superior in I.Q., not superior in worth but superior rank, that is the way God ordered it. Let me hasten to say that this is a voluntary submission. The Greek verb is in the middle voice, it is to be voluntary on the part of the wife, submit yourselves. It never says 'husbands make your wives submit'. I have heard some husbands, who do not understand this, they have said: "I am going to make my wife submit." And they told their wife "you are going to submit whether you want to or not." No! The wife is never to submit under the pressing hand of a demanding husband. It is to be voluntary.

Now what does this mean? This unselfish submission on the part of the wife. First of all, it means she is to respond to the position that God has placed them in. What is her position, what is her relationship to her husband? She is to submit: Verse 23 "The husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is head of the Church". Now notice verse 24: "Therefore, as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything". Just as the Church is to bow before the Lordship of Christ, the wife is suppose to do likewise in the home. As a matter of fact in I Peter 3:6 says: "even as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him...what..calling him Lord."

I am dedicating this portion of the message to "Women's Lib", There is nothing that will liberate a woman more than taking all the worries and frustrations and anxieties of life and letting the husband do what God intended him to do in the first place. She is not suppose to worry about that. I am for "woman's lib" I would like to see them liberated from having to work. Every woman liberated from worry about paying bills worry about bringing up the children, worry about discipline the children, not her place in the first place. It is the man's place as we shall see next time.

Do you say then, that this means that the wife has no word, no voice no opinion, Not at all! What it means is that the final decision must always rest with the husband. You say, "I don't like that!" Tell it to God, He wrote it. I mean it, I haven't written this. The wife is suppose to be submissive to the husband and I will tell you something else. You show me a home where the wife is trying to be the head of the house, where she is trying to boss, trying to do more than voice her opinion, I will show you a home where there is not a Spirit-filled harmony and peace. And I will show you in addition, where the children are going to grow up disrespecting father and mother.

Now you talk to your psychiatrist, your sociologist, your psychologist and the reason why there is a wide spread now of homosexuality is because one of the reasons is this basic thing right here. They grow up in a woman's world. They go to school, they have a woman teacher. They go to Sunday School, they have a woman teacher. It's a woman's world. They come home, father sits over there in a chair, keeps pretty well quiet, the woman makes the decisions. The boy grows up seeing that to be a man brother, isn't all that it is cut out to be, because the man is constantly under the thumb and threatened by his wife. Now I am telling you God's truth this morning.

You cannot, you cannot neglect and ignore the fundamental laws of Almighty God and get by with it. The moral problem and immoral problem we are having in our country today and in our churches, much of it is caused by the home situation, ignoring the plain commands of God Himself. The wife is suppose to be submissive to her husband. That means that he is superior in rank to you as God has ordained it. NOT SUPERIOR IN PERSON, SUPERIOR IN RANK.

You say; "My husband is lost, that means I don't have to obey him". Listen to I Peter 3:1: "Likewise ye wives, be in subjection to your own husband; that, if any obey not the Word, they also may without the Word be won by the conversation of the wives". Now he is dealing here with a Christian wife who has a lost husband and he says that the wife is to be in subjection. She is to be in submission to that husband, even though he is lost. When God created woman He told woman, "To Adam shalt thy desire be." Your desire shall be to Adam. God has placed the man over the woman in rank, in position in the home and God's Blessings can never rest on the home unless the wife, in the Spirit of Christ, takes her God ordained position. Now the reason you have to be Spirit-filled before you can do this, is because once you have yielded yourself up to God, when once you have emptied yourself of your own pride and your own selfish ambitions, it is easy then to obey God and submit yourself to your husband. Any wife who is not submissive to her husband and rebels against this, has first of all, has never submitted to the Lordship of Jesus Christ.

Not only does it mean you respond to his position, it means you respect his position. Ephesians 5:33: "Nevertheless let everyone of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife see that she reverence her husband." Reverence her husband. That means respect him. One of the most godless things a wife can do is to make fun of her husband out in public or anywhere. I have seen it happen a hundred times. Your husband may not have the education you have, he may not the I.Q. you have, as a matter of fact, you may make more money than he makes, but I want you to know, you have no right...you have no right to act disrespectfully toward him. You say, "You don't know my husband and what he has done". That doesn't make any difference at all, You respect the position that God has placed him in.

Even Michael the arch-angel would not speak disrespectfully toward the Devil. Why? Because God had placed the Devil in a higher rank of authority than Michael was. Even though the Devil was the Devil, Michael would not revile him. Even angels know this, even angels respect the Devil. So it ought to be easy for a wife to show respect for her husband.

Now I just want to ask you a question wife, "Are you submissive to your husband, are you?" Now friends don't think I am just preaching this morning. I want you to listen to it and I want you to obey it, heed it for your sake. Are you submissive to your husband, are you?

Now let us look at the next place. THE SPIRIT-FILLED HUSBAND.

The relationship the husband has toward the wife. Ephesians 5:25: "Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the Church, and gave Himself for it." I think the best way to describe the husband's relationship to the wife is this: If the wife's relationship to the husband is "unselfish submission", the husband's relationship to the wife is "unselfish sacrifice". He says "Husbands love your wives even as Christ loved the Church". Let us stop at that word "love" a minute. It doesn't have a thing to do with affection. A great many husbands seem to think that they have fulfilled the command of God when they are affectionate toward their wives. It is not what the word means at all. It is the same word that God uses in John 3:16. "For God so loved the world". It is a Godly Love and means-"to seek and to sacrifice for the well being of another". The husband is not suppose to simply love his wife in a human affectionate way. He is to love his wife God's way. He is to sacrifice himself for the well being of his wife. He is to love his wife as Christ loved the Church. Now for a long time I have read this verse but never really saw what I want to share with you right now.

How did Christ love the Church? I will tell you how He loved the Church. He took His own life and gave it away to the Church. He emptied Himself. He looked not on His own things it says in Philippians 2:5. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." He looked not only on His own things, He took His life and gave it away, so He had no life of His own. Now this is the way a husband is suppose to love his wife. **HAVE YOU EVER DONE THIS?** Have you ever consciously, by an act of your own will, taken your own life and given it away to your wife.

This explains verse 28: "So men ought to love their wives as their own bodies, he that loveth his wife loveth himself." Williams translation is this, "The married man who loves his wife is really loving himself." How can a married man who loves his wife, really love himself? He loves himself because the life that he is loving in his wife is the life that he has given her. It is his life that he has given for her well being and her welfare. That makes it an unselfish sacrifice. I tell you I am amazed at the way a lot of husbands treat their wives in this matter of selfishness. Some of you know exactly what I am talking about. There are some husbands that want their way and they are going to have their way and they have very little feeling for their wives, very little consideration for what the woman wants, what the wife wants. Some have misconstrued and perverted this teaching that we are talking about this morning. They say, 'I am the head of this house, I will do what I want to do and you will knuckle under, and just flat ignore the wishes and desires of the wife.'

Husbands, I want to ask you this morning, are you acting toward your wife in unselfish sacrifice. I love to read the relationship of Jesus to the Church, for Jesus gave everything He had for the Church. Are you doing that for your wife.

Now there are three things that a husband will do for his wife if he loves her as Christ loved the Church. First: 'He will protect her' And it says.. "He is the saviour of the body" verse 23. The husband is the saviour of the body. He will protect her and part of that protection means-'He will give her direction'. The husband is suppose to take on himself the responsibility for the decisions. Great many husbands just don't want to be shackled with that responsibility and they let the wife make all the decision in the home. That is why the wife has to go to the psychiatrist, live on tranquilizers and have nervous breakdowns, because when God made her He did not equip her to do these things. I will tell you the reason why a great many women and wives and mothers are in the nervous states they are in today is because they are doing things that God never intended for them to worry about.

The husband is the head of the wife, the head makes the decisions, the head takes the responsibility. The husband is to protect his wife from anxiety and worry and frustration by taking the load of decision making and the load of responsibility from her and putting it on his own shoulders. God has equipped him to do that. Second: He will not only protect her, he will provide for her. He nourishes his own body, he nourishes her.

I had a friend I went to the seminary with, he was a preacher, a pastor. I had never met his wife, but I noticed everytime I saw him, we were in the seminary then and no seminary student has a great deal of money unless he has inherited or something, but I noticed that this preacher friend of mine, everytime I would see him he was decked out in great looking clothes. I mean, you would have thought he had just stepped out of Gentleman's Quarterly. He was sharp. One day I met his wife and the poor wife, I never saw her in a decent dress, shabby, old out of style. This was ten years ago. I locked away in my mind that picture. Today that home is broken up. There are a great many husbands not providing for their wives. Not because they are not able to but they are selfishly spending it on themselves.

But not only this, He will also Prize Her. He not only nourishes her, he cherishes her, he prizes her, WHY? Because he has given her his life and to him she is his greatest possession and he treats her as Jesus treats the church. I don't know about you, -but this is a standard that condemns me. AM I THE HUSBAND I OUGHT TO BE? Well, I can test it out very quickly, Am I treating my wife the way Jesus treats me? Am I protecting her? Am I prizing her? Am I providing for her? Am I loving her? am I caring for her the way Jesus cares for me.

Now, what I am preaching to you this morning is not just Bible exposition but it is also real experience. And what I preach to you Sunday after Sunday is something that I have experienced in my own life. The greatest thing that happened in our home was when my wife and I came to the place where we understood what the Bible was talking about and we just had a little extra wedding ceremony where we gave ourselves away to each other and obeyed explicitly the command of God. I want you to know that our home has been different since that hour. The greatest miracle that has ever taken place in my life in these two years in all this revival, the things that God has been

doing, the greatest miracle of all has taken place in our home, in the relationship between husband and wife. Because we came to see that God knew what He was about when He laid down the rules.

When a wife comes to her husband and says, "I am going to submit to you as my husband for the Lord's sake. Not because he deserves it, not because he is worthy of it, but because Jesus asked you to do it. You read verse 21, "Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God". Because the Lord tells you to do it. And the husband takes his own life and gives it away to his wife. That is how you become as one. It is a Spirit-filled home.

Now, this morning your home is either filled and controlled by self or it is filled and controlled by the Spirit. THERE IS NO THIRD ALTERNATIVE. I promise you, every argument you had this past week, the anger the personality conflicts that have risen out of one self-life irritating another self-life, they will go on irritating until it will fester as an open sore and you will break up.

Now if some of you don't pay attention to what I am talking about this morning, in another year you will be coming to me for marriage counseling. What I am trying to do this morning is to help you and to save you from having this marriage counseling. If some of you younger couples, some of you older ones, if you don't pay attention to what I am saying this morning and you don't take the Word of God seriously and obey it and heed it, your home is not going to make it.

IS YOUR HOME THIS MORNING A REAL CHRISTIAN HOME. What you are at home is what you are.

This message was preached by Bro. Ronald Dunn of the McArthur Blvd Baptist Church of Irving Texas. This message was recorded on tape and taken from the tape to printed form.

THE SPIRIT-FILLED HOME

Parent and children

Ephesians 6:1-4

When I was a youngster there was an expression going around and I believe it came out of the army. It was the word "Snafu" ..Situation Normal All Fouled Up. A very handy word to have in your vocabulary today, I tell you for sure. Just about everywhere you look you can say SNAFU ..situation normal all fouled up.

We need today a standard of normalcy, we don't know anymore what normal is. Somebody says, "Man, this is a great church." As compared to what? Somebody says, "How is everything going?" "Man I am doing great"....as compared to what? Somebody says, "This is a great country"..as compared to what?....Who is to stand in our midst today and say.."This is the standard of normalcy". I mean, who is normal? How can you say this person is normal or abnormal, because where is the standard of normalcy?

So I suggest that all of us learn to use the expression, "SNAFU" for everywhere you look -"situation normal all fouled up". In fact the situation normal has completely submerged out of sight. I think if anybody could bring to us today a dependable and consistent standard of normalcy it would be the greatest gift that civilization could ever have.

Someone said years ago, "Christianity has never worked". The answer came back, "Christianity has never been tried." There are a lot of places today you could apply this expression-"SNAFU"-to. You could apply it to churches, most churches. You could apply it to every country in the world today. But I think perhaps you could apply it to the home situation. Man could just go through Irvin and all Dallas county today but perhaps not write 'Ichabod' over the doors of the homes but write "SNAFU" over it, "Situation Normal All Fouled Up."

Now what God wants us to have is "Situation Normal Everything Right". Now you will only find the standard of normalcy for the home in the Word of God. That's what we've been preaching and that is what we've been studying for the last few Sundays out of the Book of Ephesians, chapters five and six.

Now, the amazing thing is this, God always starts in the right place, when God wants to bring things back to normal, I am talking about God's standard of normalcy, not yours, not mine, not some psychologist, but God's standard of normalcy. For His standard is by which all of us are judged by even now, also the future and God starts on the inside and works to the outside. It is like throwing a rock into the middle of a pond and it sends little ripples to it's outer edge, and that is exactly what God does.

Ephesians 5:18 "And be not drunk with wine, but be filled with the Spirit." and everything that follows in chapters five and six is a result of man coming back to God's normalcy on the inside. It is important and imperative for us to understand that God's standard of normalcy for every person is to "Be filled with the Spirit." Where we have missed it today, is that we have tried to start the ripples on the outer edge of the pool and we try to send them back to the center. This is not the way it operates. GOD ALWAYS STARTS ON THE INSIDE.

Now, I will tell you, if you will get right on the inside, you will get right on the outside. If a person is filled with the Spirit of God and returns to God's standard of normalcy, then this Spirit filled normalcy will extend itself into the innermost reaches of the individual's life. Your business life will become what it ought to be, your school life, your church life.

The starting place is when a person gets right on the inside and he recognizes that God's norm is the Spirit-filled life. Then when a person is Spirit-filled, he can be the kind of husband he ought to be, and she can be the kind of wife she ought to be, and you can be the kind of child you ought to be and I can be the kind of father I ought to be.

Now we come to talk about the Spirit-filled home. The relationship between Parent and Children. Let us read the first four verses of Ephesians chapter six: "Children, Obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long upon the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Parallel verses: Colossians 3:20-21: "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged."

Now, God always starts with those who are in submission first and then works His way up to those who are in authority and has a greater responsibility. You know this is the way He did with the wives and the husbands in Ephesians chapter five. First of all He said, "wives submit yourselves to your husbands", then he dealt with the husband who has the greater responsibility. This is the way God always starts and so in this passage when God deals with child-parent relationship, He starts with the child, who is suppose to be in subjection and submission. Then works His way to the parent, who I have already said, has the greater responsibility. And according to James 3:1 "will have the more severe judgement and condemnation,

I am going to divide the message in two parts. We will see what the child owes his parents and we will see what the parent owes his child.

1. WHAT DOES THE CHILD OWE HIS PARENTS IN THE SPIRIT-FILLED HOME. or any home for that matter.

God is laying down principals that can never be broken. I say that this is a Spirit-filled home because the principals can be obeyed only when the person is no longer controlled by self, but is controlled by the Spirit of God. You will never be the child you are suppose to be, you will lack the capacity to be the parent you ought to be until first of all, the Spirit-filled life replaces the Self-filled life.

Now, whether you are Spirit - filled, carnal, lost or whatever category you fit into this morning, these things will apply to you. But you need to understand, you can only obey them fully and properly when the Spirit of God has control and possesses you completely.

NOW WHAT DOES THE CHILD OWE HIS PARENTS: it can be summed up in these two statements:

1. He owes them the duty of obedience "Children, obey your parents in the Lord for this is right."

Now disobedience of children to parents is a mark of pagan society. We talk a lot about America being a Christian nation. Now here again.. "What is the standard of normalcy? As compared to what? Is America a Christian nation? Well, when you compare it to Christianity, it falls short. I say again, 'Disobedience of children to parents is the mark of a Godless-Pagan society.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul says in Romans 1:30 "Back biters, haters of God, despitful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents." In this passage of scripture Paul is describing the characteristics of a Pagan Society. A society so godless that God finally gave them up and absolutely abandoned them. Now we are making a full cycle in the history of the human race, if you are not aware of it. We are coming back to the full cycle. II Timothy 3:1-2 "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. So the mark of a Pagan Society is the disobedience to parents. The mark of the last days, when sin is running rampant, is disobedience to parents.

So God sets up the standard of normalcy: What does a child owe his parents? Now Paul says obedience has two characteristics:

1. "It is right"--"Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" It is just flat right for a child to obey his parents. It is right in itself and I want you to underscore this because it so important. It is a thing that is right in it's self. It does not depend on the character of the parents, nor the wisdom of the command. A lot of children say: "Well, if my folks were what they ought to be, I would obey them." That has not a thing to do with it! Some children may say "My parents don't have enough wisdom to give me the right command." That doesn't have anything to do with it!

The principal of a child obeying his parents, this right in and of itself. It is right regardless of the character, the worthiness of the parents, or regardless of the wisdom of the command. The child is supposed to obey his parents. Paul says in Colossians 3:20: "In all things for this is right." By the way, it is the same word translated "righteous". This is righteous. The child that will not obey his parents is not "righteous".

A teacher of Young People came to me awhile back and asked me, "Pastor do you believe "teen-agers" can be filled with the Holy Spirit?" I answered: "I believe they can and should be", every child, every Christian ought to be filled with the Spirit. I will tell you why most "Teen-agers" cannot be filled with the Spirit and remain filled. It is because they do not want to give obedience, unquestioning obedience to their parents "in all things." You cango to summer camp and you can pray " God fill me with the Spirit" and you can come to the altar and weep tears of sorrow and repentance, but the moment your attitude is not one of unquestioning obedience, 'The Spirit of God is not in control. You see, it all boils down to what we have been talking about... this idea of Delegated Authority. All authority resides with God, He delegates His authority and for me to be disobedient to delegated authority is the same as being disobedient to God Himself. **FIRST THING "OBEDIENCE IS RIGHT"**

2. OBEDIENCE IS REDEMPITIVE: It is redemptive...Now don't miss this!

"Children obey your parents in the Lord for this is right" Now look at verse four.. "And you fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Now what do these two expressions mean?

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord"

"Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"

What does it mean when it says for a father to bring up his children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." WHAT THAT MEANS IS THIS: and please don't miss this "teen-agers" if you miss everything else.

The Lord Himself nurtures the child through the parent. It is the Lord who is doing the nurturing and admonishing, but He does it through the agency of the parent. DO YOU GET THIS? The source is the Lord, the instrument of means is the parent. It is really the Lord doing the nurturing. The Lord doesn't come down and take you in hand and say, "I am personally going to raise you up, escort you from infancy to maturity. God doesn't work that way. He works through delegated authority. So He sets the father in the home, the parents in the home and says, "Alright now, I am going to train up that child but I am going to do it through you.

So, when the child is obedient to his parents, that obedience is not only right, it is redemptive...because it is allowing God to do in your life what God wants to do and if you are disobedient to your parents, you are quenching the Power of God from operating in your life. Now let us go back to the word OBEY. Now the word obey means to : give an ear or readiness to listen and an eagerness to obey. Neither force nor explanation is necessary. You know that there are some children that demand an explanation for every command. Now parents, I don't know whether you are aware of it or not but let me tell you something, Authority never argues or explains or defends itself.

Teen-agers, children, anytime your parents give you an explanation or a reason for the command, "it is pure grace". They don't owe you an explanation and you don't need one. You are to obey without knowing why. If the parent wants to give you an explanation, that is their business, that's great, but they don't owe you one.

I want to say to you parents, you are harming the spiritual growth of your child when you give them a reason or explanation for every command. I WILL TELL YOU WHY.

God is nurturing that child for salvation through your parenthood and if that child grows up demanding and getting an explanation for every command, he will carry that same attitude over into his spiritual life and every command of God will have to have with it an explanation or he will not obey it...AMEN...

A Child learns from his parents to obey without reason or explanation and when a child has been brought up to obey , just because Dad said it, no explanation, no reason needed, then it is easy for him -now listen-it is easy for him then to come to the Word of God and God says "Alright, I want you to do this",..."es sir, yes Lord."

You are training your child and instilling in that child attitudes, and if you yield and bow down to the demands of that child for a reason. "Why should I do this"... "Alright, I will try to explain it to you." And you do that, and what are you doing? You make it more difficult for the child to be obedient to God. You see.. God says, "Parents I want you to teach your children to be obedient to Me." So obedience to a child and a child to his parents is not only right but it is redemptive. As a child you ought to obey your parents because God is working out His Purpose through the command of your parents. You say, "What about my parents giving me a wrong command?" It doesn't make any difference, GOD WILL WORK IT OUT. That is not your responsibility. I promise you this, if you will be obedient unto your parents.. GOD IS GOING TO SEE THAT YOU DON'T MISS ANYTHING. God is going to work it out. But not only does a child owe his parents the duty of obedience:

2. HE OWES THEM THE DISPOSITION OF HONOR: "Honor thy father and mother, which is the first commandment with promise."

The word First: means chief, primary; it is of primary importance: one of the most important commands is "to honor thy father and mother."

Now what is the difference between Honoring your parents and Obeying them?

Honor: has the idea of respect and love. You can obey your parents without honoring them. But you cannot honor them without obeying them. You see, you can obey your parents, if they threaten you, threaten to spank you, whip you, force you, then you can obey, but you have not fulfilled the God given right that you have as a child. You are suppose to honor that parent, that means obey without force, or explanation, to respect and honor thy father and thy mother. By the way, let's just put it this way: "How long is your father and mother your father and mother?" When do you cease to become their child?" You never cease to become their child. All the days of your life you are to honor them. Alright, that's what a child owes his parents. HE OWES THEM OBEDIENCE AND HONOR.

II. WHAT DOES THE PARENT OWE HIS CHILD IN THE SPIRIT-FILLED HOME?

Paul puts it first negatively and then positively.

- A. He states it negatively in verse four: "Fathers provoke not your children to wrath," Colossians 3:21 "Fathers provoke not your children to anger, less they be discouraged."

More than likely parents break this command more frequently than any other. One translation says: "Father's do not exasperate your children." Don't irratate them to the outburst of anger.

How do we do that? Briefly let me say: We provoke our children to wrath and discourage them when we make too many unnecessary demands upon them and all the time putting too strict discipline upon them and are forever finding fault and making obedience so difficult that the child becomes discouraged and says,.. "I can never do anything right! Nothing I ever do pleases my parents!" So he comes to the place, it is useless to try, and you have broken his spirit. Bengal says ... "The blight of youth today is that 'they have a broken spirit.'"

Now the parent is suppose to break the Will of the child but not the spirit. When the parent makes obedience difficult and has too many restrictions upon the child and is forever finding fault and putting them down, then he is provoking them to wrath and breaking the Law of God. A wise parent will make obedience easy for the children. Now that is what a father owes his children.

Let me just mention this, when we get to what a parent owes a child, God doesn't say anything about the mother. Now He is not slighting the mother, but He is emphasising that the father is the responsible one in the home. One of the greatest sins in our homes today is, it is mother who is having to share the responsibility instead of the father and that is a sin against God. You have no right to blame your children when they don't grow up right if you have not exercised the place God has given you to exercise. A father has no right to blame his children for growing up rebellious if he leaves all the training and discipline to the mother. It is the fathers responsibility.

He singles them out: "Ye fathers provoke not your children to wrath but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord."

NEGATIVELY: "Don't provoke them to wrath."

B. POSITIVELY: Two things a father owes his child.

1. He Owes Him Discipline: "Bring them up in the nurture." That word "Bring Up" means to escort from infancy to maturity. It means to develop their character. We are to bring them up in the nurture of the Lord. NURTURE...means discipline: the word discipline has two ideas behind it.

1. It means control: a father is suppose to control his child. It has the idea of restraint: a father who never says no will reap a lot of headache in his life.

Proverbs 29:15: "The rod and reproof giveth wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame." The new American translation .."But a child who gets his own way, brings his mother to shame."

If a father is going to give discipline to his child, then he must learn to say "no!". It has in it the idea of control: of restraining them. I mentioned in another message about God judging Eli. The Bible says Eli's son did evil in the sight of Lord and Eli restrained him not. Father, you are to control your child and you are suppose to restrain him....You say they will rebel....That isn't your problem. God says..you obey me.. their response to that...God Will Take Care Of.

You know God doesn't have any spoiled children. He has some rebellious ones but He doesn't have any spoilt ones. God knows how to say NO! God knows how to restrain and God never has any spoilt children. He has a lot of rebellious ones, and listen, you may have some rebellious ones but ought not to have any spoilt ones. Learn to say NO! Control sometime, just say no for no's sake just to teach them to be under the authority of God.

2. It not only means control, it means correction: Discipline

That means corporeal punishment, lieutenant punishment, or whatever you want to call it. Proverbs 13:24: "He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes."

BETIMES means properly and diligently. Would you let that soak in. "He that spareth his rod hateth his son": There are some parents that say they don't spank their children, -they deal with them in love... Friend, you don't know what love is! Now, I want you to listen, you that have teen-agers. Some of you have teen-agers whom you have never restrained. You let them have their way and you never discipline them.. "they feel unloved, now they told me that. I don't understand it, and no teen-ager here today will omit it, But NO DISCIPLINE IS A TEEN-AGER'S SECURITY BLANKET. They have an unconscious desire to be punished. That is the way God made them. God made us all that way.

You say, well I love my child, I am going to deal with them in love. You don't love them. You are sentimental toward them and you love the easy way out. You want to be popular, but you don't love them. GOD SAYS YOU DON'T, cause you don't know what love is.

REAL LOVE is when you give yourselves to accomplish the highest good for another person. The Bible says, "For God so loved the world." What did that mean?... That meant that God wanted me to have the best, and He sacrificed Himself to bring me the best. A father who loves his child is going to want that child to be the best and he will never be the best without discipline. That father, who withholds chastening, the Bible says, hates his son. WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? It means he withholds the best from that child.

You are not loving that child when you refuse to discipline him. "You are hating him." God says so and I promise you they feel unloved when you don't discipline them. YOU OWE THAT CHILD DISCIPLINE. Now, it is always Redemptive, not for your selfish motives. You ought to ask God and your children to forgive you when you punish them out of anger, just because you are irritated... IT IS TO BE REDEMPITIVE.

Listen Parents, when you do not discipline your children promptly and diligently, you are making it harder for that child to be saved. Did you hear me! When that child comes into your home, if you do not give prompt discipline, chastisement to that child, you are making it harder for that child to be saved.

You know what is wrong with man, with human nature? Will, Will, my will opposed to God's Will. God is Lord! I am to be submissive to Him. No one can ever be saved until his will is broken, they have submitted their will to the Will of God. No one can be saved without that. Call it what you want to, but that is what it is.

Now where does a child learn to give up his will? He learns it in the home. From the moment that child comes into your home, you are not to let them have their way. You are to restrain them, correct them, you are to break that will, cause them to submit. Now listen, if that child learns in your home that he is to be in submission to higher authority, that authority of Mom and Dad. Then when he gets old enough to be saved it will be easier for him to transfer that submission over to God. You see, he will have gotten into the habit of submitting his will.

But if the parent under the guise of a sick, false love, of tolerance and broadmindedness, diabolical stoicism says: "I am going to let my child do what he wants to do, express himself and I am not going to discipline him." That child will never have learned to be submissive to authority.

When the Gospel is preached to him he will take the same rebellious attitude to the Gospel. It will be hard for him to submit to the authority of God, hard for him to submit to the authority of the teacher, and it will be hard for him to submit to the authority of the government, and he will run off to Canada. Parents, you are making it harder for your children to be saved if you do not discipline them.

Proverbs 23:13: "Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die."
O my! Mother! You are killing me! O Daddy, you are killing me! No loving parent ever gets pleasure out of punishing their children. Some time we think they are going to die...but the opposite is sure. They are going to die if you don't do it. Listen to me parent: Under God they will die and go to Hell if you don't do it.

Listen to what God says: "Withhold not correction from the child; for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with a rod and shall deliver his soul from Hell." A parent owes his child discipline. IT IS A GIFT OF LOVE FROM A PARENT.

3. Not only owes him discipline, correction but he owes him DIRECTION.

"Bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord"

The word "Admonition": has to do with the mind and instructing the mind.

Listen to me fathers: I want to ask you a question. "Did you ever teach your children anything about the Lord". There are two ways you can teach them

1. By example
2. By explanation

Let me ask you another question: "In your home by your example, the way you treat your wife, the way you treat your children, the way you respond to the problems in the home, your general attitude in the home. Are you an example of Godliness to your child?"

Also by explanation: Do you ever read your Bible or do you let your wife do it? Is it your wife that says, "Honey, why don't we have Bible reading?" I tell you what is wrong with the American Home. It is the American husband.

NOW DO YOU GIVE THEM DIRECTION?

There is a new book coming out, the name of it is "Religion may be hazardous to your health." It is written by a man who might be a competent Psychologist, but doesn't know anything about the Word of God. I wish people who don't know Jesus, would quit trying to teach us about Jesus. He says: "I feel that all preschool religious education is to be deplored. What he is say is, until a child gets to be six or seven years old, you ought not to give him any kind of religious training. It is a known fact that the formative years of a child's life is one through six.

No religious training until they are six years old! By that time friend, it is well nigh too late. I promise you one thing Mother and Father; you may not be giving your child any religious training or instruction but they are being instructed by somebody-somewhere! Every day in their life as they watch television, move in and around their friends, they are being brain-washed by the Devil. They are being taught rebellion and they are being taught sinfulness. So He says in Dueteronomy 6:6-9: "These words which I command ye this day shall be in thine heart and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children." ARE YOU DOING THAT?

You say, "Well, I bring them to Sunday School", that will not do it. You are a slacker mother and daddy, if you leave all the religious training up to the church. We have them for one hour on Sunday morning and how in the world can we counter-act 167 other hours of other kind of instruction.

If you don't do it somehow by example and explanation in the home, you are being unkind and unloving to your children. Don't think that you are giving your children religious instruction because you bring them to Sunday School every Sunday, you are not doing it.

"And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shall talk of them when thou sittest in thy house." DO YOU EVER TALK ABOUT THE LORD IN YOUR HOUSE? When thou walkest by the way" ..when you are on vacation. "And when thou liest down"....go to bed..."and when thou risest up." Mother, he is not doing this at church...He is not talking about coming to church, unless you want to live here at the church everyday. THAT IS HOME LIFE....."And thou shalt bound them for a sign upon thy hand and they shall be frontlets between thine eyes and thou shalt write them upon the post of thy house and on thy gate." Do you know what He is saying? He is saying folks, just soak your home in the Gospel, just flood it, put it everywhere, every room the child walks into he ought to be met with some kind of religious instruction.

Dueteronomy 11:18: In the same sermon Moses repeats himself, it is so important. "Therefore shall ye lay up these words in your heart and in your soul, and bind them for a sign upon your hand, that they may be as frontlets between your eyes."

Father! not talking to mother, God is talking to fathers, Fathers, you bring your child up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. That is what you owe your child. I don't care if you let them drive around in a Rolls-Royce and they have the biggest house in Irving Texas and they have clothes more than anyone else...you are not providing for your child that way.

You owe your child two things:

1. You owe them Discipline
2. You owe them direction.

I want to know this morning, are you giving it to them? Song of Solomon 1:16: "Thou madest me a keeper of vineyards, mine own vineyard I did not keep." Parents, I don't care how many other vineyards you are working in, are you keeping your own vineyard this morning. LET US PRAY?

