

**THE NEW HUMANITY OF JESUS THE CHRIST:**

## MEDITATIONS IN THE HOLY APOSTLE PAUL'S ADDRESS TO THE EPHESIAN FAITHFUL

## CHILDREN, OBEY:

A VISION OF THE SPIRIT-FILLED, TIME-REDEEMING, CHRIST-REVERING CHILD  
(EPHESIANS 6:1-3)**I. Introduction****II. (Spirit-Filled) Children, Obey Your Parents (Eph 6:1-3)**

## A. "Children, obey" (6:1)

1. Paul addresses "children" (*tekna*).
  - a. There is no clear age limit to "children."
  - b. Who are considered "children" here?
    - i. Not those who are married (Eph 5:31; Gen 2:24).
    - ii. Not those already considered adults by their societies.
  - c. Conclusion: "Children" refers to younger unmarried people who are considered by their societies to be minors.
2. There are two implications in God's addressing children.
  - a. Children are considered church members.
  - b. Children can be filled with the Spirit.
3. How do we know that Paul is addressing *all* children in the church, and not only older children who are able to verbalize their faith in Christ?
  - a. Paul's addressing all children is in line with God addressing all children in ancient Israel (Dt 31:12; Josh 8:35).
  - b. Paul uses the Fifth Commandment, which was given to the church of Israel, which included infants (6:2).
4. Children must obey their parents.
  - a. "Obey" (*hupakouete*) is a very strong word.
  - b. "Obey" is stronger than "submit" and "love."
  - c. Obedience is the strongest form of submission.
5. Children must obey "in the Lord."
6. Children must obey because obedience "is right."

## B. Obedience to one's parents is the law of God (6:2).

1. In the Fifth Commandment, God calls us to honor our parents (Ex 20:12).
2. The Fifth Commandment assumes that God himself has established parental authority over us.

- C. Obedience to one's parents comes with a promised reward (6:3; cf. Ex 20:12).  
—Obedience to parents ensures stability in society.

**III. Spirit-Filled Living in Evil-Filled Days—For Children**

*God does not want Christian children to follow their unbelieving friends and pagan pop culture, glorifying childish foolishness and adolescent rebelliousness. He wants us to be filled with his Holy Spirit and to obey the parents he has placed over us, out of our union with Christ Jesus, God's obedient Son.*

## A. Now, for the questions:

1. "But what happens if my parents are not Christians?"
  - a. The basis for obedience does not rest in your parents, but in God.
  - b. Our obedience is a good testimony of Christ's rule.
2. "But what happens if my parents call me to disobey God?"
  - a. Jesus calls us to love him above our parents (Mt 10:37).
  - b. We must choose to obey God and suffer the consequences.
3. "But what happens if my parents forbid me to get baptized?"
  - a. Realize that God can save us without baptism.
  - b. But God still calls us to submit to baptism.
  - c. Gently explain the importance of baptism to our parents.
  - d. If our parents still object, we may wait for adulthood and pursue baptism then.
  - e. Parental objection, especially in our Asian context, must not be allowed to ultimately hinder us from receiving baptism and full communion with the church of God.  
—Parents must see that even their authority is limited by God.

B. Whatever the difficulties, obedience is to our parents is still glorious:

1. It is a command of God, greater than gold (Ps 119:127).
2. It was seen in Christ Jesus himself—the hero of obedience (Heb 5:8).

**IV. Good News for Disobedient Children**

*Children of the covenant,*

*rebel against the rebellion of your peers.*

*Pursue obedience to your parents in obedience to God.*

*In doing so, you unleash a counter-cultural movement of filial obedience that would bring glory to God and health to the land.*