What Pleases God: Children Obeying Their Parents

Ponder: Are there limits on obedience to parents?

Scripture: “Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord” (Col. 3:20, NKJV).

We’ve all seen it. “Johnny, don’t do that!” (Johnny ignores his parent and continues to misbehave.) “Johnny, I said not to do that!” (Johnny pays no attention.) “I’m not going to tell you again!” (Would it make any difference if you did?)

By and large, parents and grandparents have abandoned their responsibilities to enforce obedience. We want to be our children’s buddies; we want them to like us. But whether they know it or not, they need us to be parents! In time, they will understand that we have their best interests at heart, and they will love us. And, aside from all of that, God wants them to obey their parents “in all things” – not only when it suits them, but even when they would rather not.

Permitting children to disrespect and disobey parents may well result in similar attitudes and behaviors toward teachers at school, law enforcement officers, elders in the church, and even God Himself! Teach children to obey while they are young! Then they will be more likely to think and act respectfully toward authority figures in other areas of life.

Should children ever disobey their parents? Unfortunately, yes! Sometimes parents tell children to do things God abhors. Paul wrote, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right” (Eph. 6:1). So children should obey those directions that are consistent with God’s teaching. Shame on the parent who orders a child, “answer the phone; if it’s my boss, tell him I’m not here.” No child is obligated to sin against God, and He will surely hold parents accountable for putting their children into such dilemmas!

Parents must strive to make it easy for children to respect and obey them. “Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged” (Col. 3:11). Children become exasperated trying to obey parents who constantly nit-pick and are never satisfied.

Be a parent! Require your children’s obedience, and earn their respect!

Song: “God Give Us Christian Homes”

Prayer: Heavenly Father, our children are blessings from You. Help us to love them as You love your children. Help them to obey us, and help us to obey You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

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