

Family Rules Colossians 3:20–21 NIV

A HIGH CALLING FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Col. 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

1. A countercultural way of life: Obey your parents.

2 Tim 3:1–2 But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy...

2. A less complicated way of life: Don't selectively obey.

Children, obey your parents in everything...

3. A higher motive in life: Obey to serve the Lord.

Col. 3:20 NRSV Children, obey your parents in everything, for this is your acceptable duty in the Lord.

Eph. 6:1 NLT Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.

IMPLICATIONS FOR PARENTS

Col. 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

1. Parents are to make good and necessary rules.

Often good rules are countercultural.

"You have heard that it was said...but I say to you..." -Jesus

2. Parents should present a united front.

Ecclesiastes 4:12 Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves. A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.

3. Parenting should be understood as discipleship.

Proverbs 22:6 Start children off on the way they should go, and even when they are old they will not turn from it.

PARENTING THE RIGHT WAY

Col. 3:21 Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

1. Fathers are particularly important in discipleship.

Eph. 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

2. Make your home a safe refuge: discipline wisely.

Do not embitter (provoke, challenge) your children. They will become discouraged (disheartened, broken in spirit.)

- *Use positive reinforcement to encourage.
- *Use minimum necessary force to discipline.
- *Always double check self/motives

3. Model God's OMG (ordinary means of grace.)

1 Cor. 11:1 Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

*Connect with God weekly in worship.

Exodus 20:8 Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.

*Grow spiritually in daily time in the Word and prayer.

Mark 1:35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

*Get involved in a ministry to impact the world.

Rom. 12:4-5 *Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others.*

4. Must be present to win.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

5. Healthy families happen by grace through faith!

Matthew 17:20 (Jesus said,) "Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."