

“Where Scripture meets life and Transforms it!”

“Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.”
Romans 12:2 (ESV)

What the Bible say about Parents and Children.

Help, my parents/children are driving me crazy!



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*All scripture passages, unless otherwise indicated,
are taken from the ESV translation.*

I

Who are parents and children?

- A. God has created both parents and children.
 - 1. God establishes marriages & families.
 - 2. God gives children to parents as a blessing and a responsibility (Psalm 127)

- B. God gives instructions to BOTH parents and children.
 - 1. God has established specific DUTIES to parents.
 - 2. God has given specific DUTIES to children.

- C. BOTH parents and children MUST obey God by obeying Scriptures (Ephesians 6:9)
 - 1. Everyone must obey God as his/her Creator. (Duty)
 - 2. Christians must obey God as their Savior and Lord. (Gratitude (Exodus 20:2)

- D. Parents must realize that children are a gift from God and that they are called to be faithful caretakers of God's children.

- E. Children must realize that God has ordained their parents as his stewards over them and that they are called to obey God BY obeying their parents.

II

What God calls parents to do.

- A. Love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mark 12:30)
 - 1. Each parent must love God before they love each other.
 - 2. Each parent must love God before they love their child.
 - 3. Each parent must love God and “hate” the world.

- B. Be transformed in the renewing of their minds. (Romans 12:1-2)
 - 1. Each parent must seek to put off the sinful habits of their old, sinful nature.
 - 2. Each parent must seek to put on the holy habits of their new, holy nature.

- C. Obey God because they love God. (1 John 5:3)
 - 1. True love for God bears the fruit of obedience towards God.
 - 2. True love for God bears the fruit of love towards others. (1 John 4:20-21)

- D. Love their children as they love themselves. (Mark 12:31)
 - 1. Each parent can show his/her love for his/her children by first honoring God. (1 John 5:2)
 - 2. Each parent can show his/her love for his/her children by second honoring each other. (Eph 5:22-23)

- E. Serve their children out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21; 6:4; Colossians 3:21,23-24)
 - 1. Each parent serves Christ by serving his/her children.
 - 2. Each parent serves his/her children by pointing his/her children to Christ.

- F. Teach AND demonstrate the truth of God’s faithfulness to their children. (Exodus 12:25-27; Deuteronomy 6:7; 11:19) [Passive communication of God’s truths]
 - 1. Each parent is called to point his/her children to Christ through their living. (actions)
 - 2. Each parent is called to point his/her children to Christ through their words. (speech)

- G. Discipline and nurture their children according to the Word of God. (Genesis 18:19; Proverbs 1-7; 22:6; 13:24; 23:13; 2 Timothy 3:16-17) [Active communication of God’s truths]
 - 1. Each parent is called to actively teach his/her children the truth of God’s Word.
 - 2. Each parent is called to actively guard his/her children against the foolishness of the world.

III

What God calls children to do.

- A. Love God with all their heart, soul, mind, and strength. (Mark 12:30)
 - 1. Each child must love God before they love their parents.
 - 2. Each child must love God and “hate” the world.

- B. Be transformed in the renewing of their minds. (Romans 12:1-2)
 - 1. Each child must seek to put off the sinful habits of their old, sinful nature.
 - 2. Each child must seek to put on the holy habits of their new, holy nature.

- C. Obey God because they love God. (1 John 5:3)
 - 1. True love for God bears the fruit of obedience towards God.
 - 2. True love for God bears the fruit of love towards others. (1 John 4:20-21)

- D. Love their parents as they love themselves. (Mark 12:31)
 - 1. Each child can show their love for their parents by first honoring God. (1 John 5:2)
 - 2. Each child can show their love for their parents by second honoring them. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

- E. Serve their parents out of reverence for Christ. (Ephesians 5:21; Colossians 3:21, 23-24)
 - 1. Each child serves Christ by serving his/her parents.
 - 2. Each child serves his/her parents by obeying his/her parents.

- F. Honor their parents. (Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16; Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20)
 - 1. Children honor their parents by obeying God.
 - 2. Children honor their parents by obeying them.
 - 3. Children honor their parents by respecting them.

- G. Obey their parents in ALL things in the Lord. (Colossians 3:20)
 - 1. Children must obey their parents in “ALL” things.
 - 2. Children must not obey their parents when the will of their parents contradict the Word of God.

IV

Until when?

- A. Parents are to set an example of God's truth for their children until death. [Passive communication of God's truth]

- B. Parents need to eventually stop actively disciplining and nurturing [Active communication of God's truth] their children when they reach "adulthood" and send them out of the home.
 - 1. If the child gets married, then the parents are to send the child away to either lead (for the son) or to submit to a new authority (for the daughter).
 - 2. If the child does not marry, he/she should be sent out of the house when they reach a certain age of self-accountability. In particular, if a child refuses to no longer submit to the authority of the father, then he/she is saying that he/she is ready to leave the home and be on his/her own.
 - 3. If the child does not marry and he/she agrees to continue to submit to the authority of the parents, then the child can be permitted to dwell in the parent's home. But, the arrangement should not be a permanent one.

- C. Children are to respect their parents unto death because the parents will always be the signs of God's faithfulness and authority over them. A wise child will always consider well the "wisdom" of their elder, especially the "wisdom" of his/her parents.

- D. Children no longer need to "obey their parents in all things" once they reach "adulthood."
 - 1. When they leave the house believing that they are ready to self-accountable and no longer desire to be under the authority of the parents.
 - 2. When they get married.
 - a. The son leaves to establish his own family and become a steward of God's authority in his own home.
 - b. The daughter leaves to establish a family under a new steward of God's authority, her husbands. She leaves the authority of her father and to submit to the authority of her husband.

