Children Are To Obey Their Parents

Intro: It is obvious that the title of this lesson was taken from Eph. 6:1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.” and Col. 3:20 “Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord.”

I. Parents Must Demand Obedience
A. Gen. 42:22 “And Reuben answered them, saying, Spake I not unto you, saying, Do not sin against the child; and ye would not hear? therefore, behold, also his blood is required.”
B. They are given the charge to rule.
   1. While parents cannot demonstrate harshness and severity in ruling (they must not be tyrannical or dictatorial), but they must rule.
      a. Eph. 6:4 “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”
      b. Gen. 18:19 “For I know him, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord, to do justice and judgment; that the Lord may bring upon Abraham that which he hath spoken of him.”
      c. 1 Tim. 3:4 “One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity;”
C. Parents Are Responsible To God For Children’s Obedience.
   1. Psa. 78:5-7 “For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: ‘That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: ‘That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments:”
   2. Pro. 22:6 “Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.”
D. In ruling and training they must:
   1. Instruct:
      a. by word
      b. by example
         (1) While parents must demand respect; they must live so as to deserve respect.
         (2) 2 Cor. 3:2 “Ye are our epistle written in our hearts, known and read of all men:”
         (3) 1 Tim. 4:12 “Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.”
   2. Restrain:
      a. Children are prone (inclined) to do evil.
      b. They have not had their senses exercised to discern good and evil, Heb. 5:14 “But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”
      c. The importance of saying NO! meaning it and sticking to it.
   3. This includes using the “rod” (give spankings) when necessary.
      a. Old saying, “Spare the rod and spoil the child.”
      b. Pro. 13:24 “He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes.”
      c. Pro. 22:15 “Foolishness is bound in the heart of a child; but the rod of correction shall drive it far from him.”
      d. Pro. 23:13-14 “Withhold not correction from the child: for if thou beatest him with the rod, he shall not die. 14Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell.”
e. Pro. 29:15 “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.”
f. That punishment must be severe enough that it discourages the action in the future.

4. We cannot be just friends with our children.

II. CHILDREN ARE COMMANDED TO OBEY
A. It is to do whatever they tell us.
1. This is the word obey.
2. Obey means to execute, to carry out or perform the commands or expressed desire.
3. It is to act in accordance with what is said.
4. It involves 4 things:
   a. Do what they say
   b. Do it when they say to do it
   c. Do it how they say to do it.
   d. Do it for the reason that they give.
B. Realize that in obeying parents I am obeying God
1. Anytime we rebel against God’s delegated authority we rebel against God.
   a. John 13:20 “Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that receiveth whomsoever I send receiveth me; and he that receiveth me receiveth him that sent me.”
   b. Num. 16: the rebellion of Korah, Dathan, Abiram, and On.
2. Parents are God’s delegated authority in the home.
C. It is right to obey because:
1. Their age
   a. There is to be a respect of age.
   b. Lev. 19:32 “Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the Lord.”
   c. Pro. 16:31 “The hoary head is a crown of glory, if it be found in the way of righteousness.”
2. Their experience and knowledge.
   a. They have gone through experiences in life that you are now trying to face.
   b. They have had their senses exercised to discern right from wrong.
   c. They are thus smarter than you.
D. It is to make them happy even if they do not command it.
1. They want us to live in a certain way (a way that is best for us).
2. Anonymous “You got it from your father, it was all he had to give. So its your’s to use and cherish, for as long as you may live. If you lose the watch he gave you, it can always be replaced. But a black mark on your name, Son, can never be erased. It was clean the day you took it, and a worthy name to bear. When he got it from his father, there was no dishonor there. So make sure you guard it wisely, after all is said and done. You’ll be glad the name is spotless, when you give it to your son.”
E. The limit set for obedience.
1. “in the Lord”
2. We cannot do anything that transgresses the law of God.
   a. They do not have the right to tell us to lie, steal, cheat, etc.
   b. Nor do they have the right to keep us from worshiping God.
3. Acts 5:29 “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.”
F. Obedience in youth leads to obedience in later years (to school faculty, government, the Lord, elders, etc.)

III. HELPS IN OBEDIENCE
A. Recognize that it is a command of God.
B. The example of Jesus
   1. Earthly parents: Luke 2:51 “And he went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them: but his mother kept all these sayings in her heart.”
   2. Heavenly Father:
      a. John 6:38 “For I came down from heaven, not to do mine own will, but the will of him that sent me.”
      b. Phi. 2:7-8 “But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: 8And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.”
      c. Heb. 5:8 “Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;”
C. Gratitude.
   1. We owe our existence to them.
   2. They brought us into this world.
   3. They fed and clothed us.
   4. They have given of themselves for us.
   5. They have supreme love for us.
D. It will be good for us (first command with promise).
   1. In Olden times they were stoned if not obedient.
      a. Exo. 20:12 “Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”
      b. Deu. 5:16 “Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”
   2. If we do not learn obedience, we will not prosper in this life.

Conclusion: Yes, children are to obey their parents in the Lord. Parents, children must be made to obey, but realize they are going to obey the example you set before them. If you want them to grow up in Christ, then you must live the Christian life.