

## Change to become a better son or daughter!

### Intro:

- → **Rf - Gen. 1 — Review - Gen. 2:21-24; 4:1-2** creation, man and woman, **family — children**
  - family was part of **God's divine plan** of creation — commanded man from the beginning
  - children (young people) are an **integral (important)** part of the family — as important as mother and father
    - **without children, the human race** would cease to exist in a few years
    - **without children, the church** would be non-existent upon the earth in a few years
  
- **This lesson:** Change to become a better son or daughter! — [series](#)
  - **purpose:**
    - to remind young people *how* important they are, and how to do their best in the family
    - challenge all of us (young, old) to become better sons and daughters

- #1 **How can we learn to be the best son and daughter possible? — Bible**
  - ➔ **compliment** sons and daughters (young and old) — some caring for aged parents
    - **challenge self**, become better - improve
  
  - ➔ **Read - 2 Tim. 3:14-17** (instruction to young man, Timothy) learned, young, childhood, sacred writings.
    - faith, Scripture, every good work — being best son or daughter possible
  
- ➔ **Young Christians can't be like most other people! — not respect Bible, God, parents**
  - **stat:** U.S. News & World Report, 4/4/94
    - **80 %** of Americans believe the **Bible is the inspired Word of God**
    - **48 %** believe there is **no one set of values that is right**
  - **saying:** you have to be different, to make a difference
  
- ➔ **What's this mean to you?**
  - young people, you must be different than most other people in the world — **respect God, His word, your parents**

➤ #2 What does the Bible say about a child's relationship with his parents? — go to Bible

→ Read - Eph. 6:1-3; Col. 3:20

→ obey (Eph. 6:1): **voluntary submission**, as wife to husband (Eph. 5:24)

- **illus.:** President Bush, visiting with his parents (The Washington Times "Inside the Beltway" - 11-12-03)
  - First Lady Laura Bush recalls one overnight visit with her husband in the home of his parents, the former President and Mrs. Bush.
  - "George woke up at 6 a.m. as usual and went downstairs to get a cup of coffee," Mrs. Bush says. "And he sat down on the sofa with his parents and put his feet up. And all of a sudden, Barbara Bush yelled, 'Put your feet down!'"
  - "George's dad replied, 'For goodness' sake, Barbara, he's the President of the United States.'
  - "And Barbara said, 'I don't care. I don't want his feet on my table.'"
  - The president promptly did as he was told, and Mrs. Bush observes: "Even Presidents have to listen to their mothers."
- **voluntary submission requires meekness:**
  - **meekness:** gentleness and self control, to do what is right, obey authority, even when wronged by others
    - **illus.:** teacher, boss, civil law, parents — obey because right thing to do, even when wronged
    - **Quote - Matt. 5:5** Blessed are the meek, For they shall inherit the earth (NKJV).

→ in the Lord (Eph. 6:1): obey as long they they do not ask you to do something that's a sin

- e.g., our relationship with the civil government
  - **Quote - Acts 4:19-20** (Peter's response to command of Sanhedrin to stop preaching) . . . , "Whether it is right in the sight of God to give heed to you rather than to God, you be the judge; 20 for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

→ for this is right (Eph. 6:1): this is the right thing for you to do — anything else is wrong

- e.g., Gen. 3: sin of Adam and Eve, eyes opened to know right from wrong

→ honor your father and mother (Eph. 6:2): place a high value upon them; therefore reverence (respect) them and obey them

- e.g., group of girls in school cafeteria eating lunch: homely looking male teacher ask them to do something, then a gorgeous male teacher ask them to do the same thing — obedience to the second because of the great value they put on him

→ well-pleasing to the Lord (Col. 3:20): this is what is necessary for you to please God

- e.g., what does God think about you: at end of day, when lay in bed and say prayer - obey parents

next page, three Bible examples

➤ → **Three Bible examples of young people voluntarily submitting** to parents — obey, honor, in the Lord, right

- **Isaac** submitted to his father to be a burnt offering
  - **Story - Gen. 22:1-6** God commands Abraham to offer son
  - **Read - Gen. 22:7-12** Isaac's question, allowed himself to be bound and prepared for sacrifice
- **Jephthah's daughter** submitted to her father to be a burnt offering (sacrifice)
  - **Read - Judges 11:30-31** Jephthah's vow, sacrifice whatever came out of house first
  - **Read - Judges 11:34-35** his daughter comes out first to greet him, what he says
  - **Read - Judges 11:36-37** daughter's attitude — do as vowed to Lord
  - **Read - Judges 11:38** wept and mourned — but still obeyed
  - **Read - Judges 11:39** after 2 months, returned to father, did according to vow — burnt offering
- **Jesus** - the ultimate example of all
  - **Story - Lk. 2:41-50** Jesus from Nazareth to Jerusalem for Passover, age 12 (rf. Dawn)
  - **Read - Lk. 2:51-52** Jesus, subjection to parents - voluntary obedience

→ **What's this mean to you?**

- God wants young people to highly value their parents — respect, obey — well-pleasing to God
- **saying: be like Jesus**, obey your parents

- #3 **Flee lust — don't compromise your faith!** — faithfully serve God, this is what your parents want from you
    - ➔ If you flee lust, you will heed your parents instruction, and obey the Lord.
      - **Read - 2 Tim. 2:22** (Paul to young Timothy) flee youthful lusts — e.g., disobedience to parents
        - **flee:** seek safety by running away — e.g., woman run away from abductor
        - **youthful lusts:** all the sinful things that are appealing — lust of the eye and flesh, pride of life (1 Jn. 2:16)
    - ➔ To flee lust, you must **accept your parent's discipline.**
  - ● **PP - Pr. 13:1** wise son accepts father's discipline
    - **discipline:** rf. lesson 7 — **Quote - Eph. 6:4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the **discipline and instruction** (oral instruction, corrective discipline) of the Lord.
  - ● **young people need discipline,** to grow and develop as Christians
    - **PP - Pr. 22:15** corrective discipline removes foolishness
    - **stat - Time Mag.:**
      - According to a study published in Effective Clinical Practice, **teens whose parents restrict them from watching R-rated movies are one-third as likely to smoke or drink than kids who have no such restrictions.** Citation: Lisa McLaughlin, "R-Rated Behavior," Time (2-25-02)
  - ● **PP - 1 Cor. 15:33** bad company corrupts good morals
  - ● **Quote - Matt. 6:22-24** "The **eye is the lamp of the body**; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. 23 But if your **eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness.** If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness! 24 **No one can serve two masters;** for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth."
  - **stat - Survey conducted by Columbia University's Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA)**
    - "Almost one in five American teens say **they live with 'hands-off' adults** who fail to consistently set rules and monitor their behavior. These youth are at a **four-times greater risk for smoking, drinking, and illegal drug use than their peers with 'hands-on' parents.**" (Reuters News Service, (2-21-01))
- ➔ **Be like Joseph** — young man, accepted father's discipline, flee lust, don't compromise your faith
  - **Story of Joseph, slavery:** Jacob's first born son of Rachel, gave varicolored tunic, brothers jealous, planned to murder him, but sold him into slavery, deceived their father into believing he was dead by putting goat blood on his varicolored tunic
  - **Story of Joseph, prison in Egypt:** slave in Potiphar's house
    - **Read - Gen. 39:2-13** Joseph tempted, fled youthful lusts
    - **Story of Joseph's imprisonment:** Potiphar's wife lied, Joseph imprisoned
  - **Application:**
    - **be like Joseph,** accepted teaching and training from father, fled youthful lusts
      - don't worry about consequences of obeying God - God will bless
    - **Joseph, later:** released from prison after interpreting Pharaoh's dream, made governor over Egypt, saved Israel from famine in Canaan
- ➔ **What's this mean to you?**
  - **Be a wise son or daughter, accept parent's discipline** — obey your parents, flee youthful lusts, don't compromise your faith.
  - **saying:** the greatest test of a persons faith is what he does when he is alone, when no one else knows his actions, when no one knows whether he is doing right or wrong

➤ #4 What's the result of being a godly, son or daughter? — four things, in addition to heaven

→ Answer: heaven, of course — but more!

→ PP - Eph. 6:1-3 have the best possible life on earth — great life!

- learn to submit to authority — parents, civil, God most importantly
  - e.g., work, school, home, judgment — not submit to authority, will have a troublesome live
- **illus.: Parachutist Perishes** (Associated Press, 10-23-99)
  - **Jan Davis, 60, a professional veteran parachutist**, was involved in a dangerous sport called **BASE jumping**—leaping off fixed objects like cliffs and towers.
  - While BASE jumping that she **fell to her death on October 22, 1999**.
  - Her husband, who was filming the jump, and several reporters were stunned when Jan, the 4th of 5 jumpers, fell for 20 seconds and crashed into the rocks. Her chute had not opened properly. She was **jumping off the 3,200 foot granite cliff, El Capitan, in Yosemite National Park, California**.
  - She knew that **BASE jumping is illegal in Yosemite Park**. The law was adopted because there had already been six deaths in Yosemite along with numerous injuries due to BASE jumping. The five jumpers were in fact protesting the park's jumping restrictions and, **ironically, were jumping to prove that the sport is safe**. These jumpers not only knew the risks, they also knew the law and **deliberately broke it**. Jan Davis paid with her life.
  - **Application:** rules and laws are for our “good” — young people who obey their parents will have a good life, and live long of the earth (**Eph. 6:3**)

➤ 3 → You give your parents a better live! — make parents happy - they'll have a better life, enjoy life more

- **PP - Pr. 15:20** wise son makes a father glad / **foolish man** despises his mother
- **PP - Pr. 10:1** wise son makes a father glad / **foolish son** is a grief to his mother.
- **PP - Pr. 23:15** son with **wise heart** / parents heart will be **glad**
- **Application:**
  - **best gift you can give** your parents is to be wise — obey Lord, obey them, go to heaven

➤ → You help your parents get to heaven! — all faithful Christians help each other get to heaven

- **while you are young:** parents need encouragement too - having faithful Christian children some of the best encouragement a parent can have
- **when you get older:** help parents pass from this life to next - very well may need your help - end of life care
- **Application:**

- **when you faithfully attend (and participate)** in the assembly, you are helping your parents go to heaven
  - **PP - Heb. 10:24-25** stimulate, encourage
- **when you live godly lives**, you are encouraging your parents to live godly lives
  - **PP - Matt. 18:3** adults must be converted and become like a child to be saved
  - **PP - Matt. 19:14** kingdom of heaven belongs to those who are like children

➤ → You help your friends get to heave! — example, light to the world, leading them to God

- **PP - Matt. 5:14-16** "You are the **light of the world**. A **city set on a hill cannot be hidden**; 15 **nor does anyone light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on the lampstand**, and it **gives light to all** who are in the house. 16 **Let your light shine before men** in such a way that they may **see your good works**, and **glorify your Father who is in heaven**."
- **Application:**
  - when obey your parents, live godly lives, lead others to Christ, God, salvation, heaven
  - **illus.:** standing near a friend at judgment, enters heaven, turns at looks at you and says, "Thanks!"

→ **What's this mean to you?**

- godly son or daughter: live best life, blessing to parents, help others get to heaven

**Summary:**

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- **compliment** sons and daughters (young and old) — some caring for aged parents
- **Bible:** only way to learn how to become the best son or daughter you can be (Army: be the best you can be)
- **God wants** young people to highly value their parents — respect, obey — well-pleasing to God
- **Be wise, accept discipline:** Be a wise son or daughter, accept parent's discipline — obey your parents, flee youthful lusts, don't compromise your faith.
- **If you'll do these things:** live best life, blessing to your parents, help others get to heaven

→ **Challenge yourself:**

- to become a better son or daughter (no matter your age), to the glory of God

→ **Inv.:**

- having a good life begins with being a faithful Christian
- inv.