

God's Goals for the Home:
Parents and Children

Colossians 3:20-21

Last week: God's Goals for the Home:
Husbands and Wives (3:18-19)

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Next week: God's Goals for Us at Work.
(3:22-4:1)

I. God's Instructions for Christian Relationships (3:5-17)

“The family is where, under the Lordship of Christ, we learn to control anger, rage, abusive language, and lying so that peace might reign.

The family is where we first learn to work out the values of “compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (v.12).

There is no more difficult a place to exercise these virtues day in and day out than in the home.”

– David Garland

II. God's Instructions to Children (v.20).

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God gives children the responsibility of obeying their parents.

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III. God's Instructions to Fathers/Parents (v.21).

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (v.21)

This verse is addressed to fathers because they have the God-given responsibility to lead their family.

The word translated “fathers” is translated *parents* in Heb.11 in referring to Moses’ parents: *By faith Moses, when he was born, was hidden for three months by his parents* (Heb.11:23a).

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1. The right way includes demonstrating the Christ-like character qualities in vv.12-14 – compassion, kindness, patience, and most importantly, love.
2. The right way also includes loving discipline of children.

God provides us with the ideal model of loving discipline, as expressed in Hebrews 12:5-11.

*6 For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he
receives.”*

*⁶ For the Lord disciplines the one he loves,
and chastises every son whom he
receives.”*

*⁸ If you are left without discipline, in which
all have participated, then you are
illegitimate children and not sons.*

11 For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant, but later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

The wrong way of exercising authority:

Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged

“Make sure that at the end of your life – regardless of how your child turns out – that you can honestly stand before God and say, ‘In a fallen world, being the sinner that I am, I did the best I could through the power You gave me.’ If you can't say that, whatever else you have accomplished doesn't matter.”

- Cal Thomas

*And above all these put on love,
which binds everything together in perfect
harmony. (Col.3:14)*