

### **The Christian View of Parenting**

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Introduction – the parenting mantra –

“God made me the parent and you the child... when you are the parent, then you can do what God tells you to do.”

Text – Ephesians 6:1-4

Main Idea - We don't appreciate the radical nature of these four verses. ... especially against:

Culture of the 1st century

- The father as “pater potestas vs. patriarch
- Children as a burden vs. a blessing
- Children's value – instrumental vs. intrinsic
- Schooling as securing one's place vs. seeing one's place

Specifically, we're required to understand three areas of encouragement (but first some background)

I. The Children's Command – obey “in the LORD”

- A. the ethics of obedience – legal reasons
- B. the example of obedience – “honor” – loving reasons
- C. the encouragement for obedience – command & promise – legacy reasons

II. The Father's Charge - don't exasperate but train & instruct

- A. Do not Provoke – exasperate – several ways that parents do this to children
- B. Be Positive
- C. Be Partners together

III. Some Contemporary Challenges

- A. the problem of “dysfunctional family” in 21st century culture
- B. the place of the “family” within the Christian church
- C. the picturing of God as “our Father” to a world with different models

Conclusion – How will we be/become “the family of God”?