

I. ME

A. Intro/Review

1. Life is about relationships

- a. Quality of our life is determined by the quality of our relationships
2. Jesus' command is to love... illogical- can't control feelings.
 - a. It's a choice (Love is a choice)
3. What does that look like specifically?
4. Trying to find an overarching theme/filter/idea for some of our most important relationships
5. Marriage- **Xian marriage should be a submission competition.**
6. This week... families and parenting.

B. Might not know this, but I used to be a family and, more specifically, a parenting expert.

1. Give me 5 min with a family and I could tell you exactly what you were doing wrong and what you should do to fix it.
2. Then I had a kid.
 - a. And my level of expertise dropped a bit.
3. Then I had a 2nd kid... dropped a little further.
4. 3rd kid... seems like I barely know anything.
5. Why we stopped at 3. Didn't want to get any dumber.
6. It was like saying I was an expert at war after playing a few video games
7. No idea what I was talking about until I was in it.
8. Now I know...

II. WE

A. Families are hard

1. You don't get to choose them
2. You have to live with them
3. You never know how badly you're going to scar your kids.
4. In some cases you either do everything you can to not be like your parents/ or try really hard to live up to the great example of your parents.
5. And maybe your family of origin doesn't get along and is just drama.
 - a. You don't want your kids to end up like you and your siblings.
6. So what do you do?
7. How do you lay the best foundation possible for your family?
8. Or fix the broken foundation of your family or family of origin?
9. How do we enjoy our families whatever stage we are in?
10. Answer is completely illogical. Especially when you actually try to do it.

B. Begins with Submission.

1. Eph 5:21

2. The rule for every relationship

3. Every Christian submits in every relationship

4. Submission- Giving all of me for what benefit you the most.

5. What does that specifically look like in the family?
6. Paul tells us

C. Paul. (Ephesians 6:1-4)

1. History
2. **Writing to Xians...** specifically Xian families.
3. **Not a Xian-** Off the hook.
4. **Not a parent-** start learning to swim now, use this as a child to your parents.

D. So if the rule is submission in every relationship what does that look like in the family?

III. GOD

A. Children V. 1

1. Children submit to their parents by obeying them

- a. "Oh good I'm not a child. I'm ok ignoring my parents."
- b. No age limit... basically means "offspring."
- c. If you are under their roof... obedience.
- d. Respect and honor... lifelong.

2. Obey

- a. Obey means... obey
- b. Listen to, submit to
- c. Same word used for when the wind and waves obeyed Jesus.
- d. Why should we?

3. In the Lord, for this is right.

- a. B/c it's not about obeying your parents...
- b. Submitting to/obeying your parents is trusting and submitting to God who specifically gave you those parents.
- c. He purposely chose them to be in authority over you
- d. Obedience has nothing to do with how worthy they are, if they've earned it, if they're being fair, whether they are Xians or not, whether they are even right or not.
- e. Just like in marriage... your submission to your parents shows how much you trust the God who gave you those parents.
- f. **This is right**... exactly how God designed it to be.

4. What does this look like?

- a. This isn't complicated... it looks like obeying.
- b. If its not sin... you obey
- c. "But you don't know my parents"... God does. And you can trust him. And He designed it fro kids to obey their parents.

5. It's what Jesus did.

- a. 100% God and Human
- b. Had parents. Uneducated teenagers.
- c. He obeyed them.
- d. Why? B/c it wasn't about their worth or smarts or fairness. It was about trusting and loving God.

6. Now, there's two types of obedience.

- a. Good obedience/bad obedience.
- b. Complaining/Slow obedience/etc.
- c. Not what Paul is talking about.

B. V. 2a (Honor your father and mother)

1. One of the 10 Commandments
2. Honor- To hold in the highest esteem. Respect that causes voluntary obedience.
3. **Obeying is the action but honor is the attitude.**
4. Jesus willingly obeyed and honored his parents... even though he actually did know better.
5. The rule despite age or distance.
6. You might not live under their roof and authority but for the Xian family... children do their part to create healthy happy families by honoring and respecting their parents.
7. **Examples:** Call them, let your kids interact with them, talk well about them, don't put rules on them or use your kids as leverage, don't just use them for what they can give you.

C. V. 2b-3

1. So good kids live longer than bad kids?
 - a. Obviously not.
2. Best way to think of it is... obedience creates self-discipline, which brings stability and wisdom... which generally gives people happier longer lives.
3. **Kids living at home** you want a good life? Obey your parents... especially when you think they are wrong.
 - a. Not logical but it works.
 - b. "I disagree [that's ok] but I'm choosing to obey and honor b/c I trust Jesus."

c. I guarantee you it will at least make them stop and think about their decision again.

4. **Adult children**... you want a good life?

- a. Show honor and respect to your parents... and let your kids see it. Let them see you treat your parents the way you want them to treat you when you're old and annoying...
- b. If you want your kids to ignore you and dread coming for a visit let them see you treat your parents that way.

D. **Parents. V. 4**

1. **"Fathers"**- Applies to parents.

- a. But in this new hierarchy the greater responsibility is on the "leader."
- b. And think about this... how often do you here adults complaining about mommy issues?
- c. Hear all the time grown men and women still dealing with how their fathers treated them as kids.

2. Paul first tells us what not to do... and then what to do instead.

E. **Do not exasperate**

(provoke/embitter/aggravate/rile/infuriate)...

1. Repeatedly pushing their buttons, almost forcing them to be angry with you.
2. When we exasperate our kids it makes it almost impossible for them to obey and honor.
3. Top 3 Youth Pastor Counseling Topics
 - a. #3 Relationships and sex. #2 God's will for my life (college, etc.). #1 Dealing with exasperating parents.
 - b. the kid wants to be a good kid and obey but the parents make it so hard.

F. **Examples of exasperating...**

1. **Arbitrary/illogical/inconsistent rules** (b/c I said so, ok yesterday not today)
2. **Hypocrisy/Double Standards** (Expecting them to do things we don't do)
 - a. Angrily yelling at them and then punishing them when they do the same to you
 - b. Being one person around church friends and another person at home.
 - 1) My parents- same people at home and on stage at church

3. **Favoritism**

4. **Unreasonable demands or expectations** (especially if the demands are above their ability b/c of age or maturity)

5. **Disciplining for childishness or weakness, not for sin.**

6. **Disciplining for personality differences or personal preferences.**

- a. Too outgoing or shy so you force them to be like you
- b. What they are doing annoys you so you punish them for it

7. **Over protection**

8. **Constant Criticism** (never complimenting)

9. **Lack of affection** (making them feel unwanted by never sacrificing for them... making them feel like a burden.)

10. **Always lecturing and never listening** (not taking THEIR feelings into account)

11. **Ungracious reactions to their sin** ("What were you thinking?" Or "How could you be so dumb?")

12. **Embarrassing them** (Correcting, mocking, or expressing disappointment in front of others)

13. **Being offended at their sin b/c it bothers or embarrasses you, not b/c it hurts others.**

14. **Physical/verbal/emotional abuse**

- G. Parents... you cannot force true obedience... you know it.
1. The section about obeying parents doesn't say, "Parents, control your children."
 2. Paul is directly talking to the children.
 3. **The responsibility of obedience is on the child...** not you.
 4. Just as adults submitting to each other is the result of being filled with the HS...
 - a. The obedience of a child can only come from their relationship with the Lord and submitting to the control of the HS.
 5. If you constantly force your kids to obey you they will never honor you.
 - a. They will only see you as a cop and the moment your back is turned or they are out of your jurisdiction they will find their way to rebel.
 6. The point of having a family is not to create a bunch of rule followers.
 7. **The point of a family is to be a picture of the love of Jesus to the world.**
- H. The will of a child cannot be controlled... but it can be guided.
1. Children are individuals created in the image of God and must learn to make decisions on their own within the limits of their age and maturity.
 2. But they learn this though parents who **submit** their lives to their children.
 3. **Submissive parents create obedient children.**
- I. **V. 4 Instead-** On the contrary- the opposite is...
- J. **Bring Up...** steady nourishment... provide for their physical and spiritual needs.
- a. Levels of each switch as they get older.

K. Parents submit to their children by giving all of themselves daily for what benefits their child the most.

1. Putting their children's needs above their own by caring for, nurturing, and guiding their children's personal and spiritual development.
 2. Giving up your preferences, comforts, desires and giving away your time, energy, and attention.
 3. Paul is not talking about teaching kids facts or making sure they obey rules.
 4. He's talking about the formation of a mature, responsible, Jesus follower that chooses to trust God and love others as him or herself.
- L. **1st century...** Father's submitting was extremely offensive.
1. Father's word was law... family existed for his benefit
 2. Children had no rights... Exposure. Bathhouse bones.
 3. As we saw last week, in Xian relationships the less privileged group in society is given priority of treatment.
 - a. Husbands Submit their entire life to their wives
 - b. And Fathers/Parents submit their lives to their children.

M. Jesus' View of Leadership

1. **Mark 10:42-45**
 2. **Luke 12:48b** (With great power comes great responsibility)
 3. Unheard of... completely transformed social hierarchy.
 4. **Gospel...** gives previously disadvantaged new rights and worth. (If Jesus would die for them too they are as worthy as me).
- N. **Side Note...** Leaves no room for "we'll just let them decide what they want to believe when they are older."
1. God chose and entrusted you specifically to raise those kids.

IV. YOU

A. What do we train and instruct them in?

1. Who God is.
 - a. He is who he says he is and will do what he says he will do.
2. The truth of Jesus
3. How to make wise choices (What is the wise thing to do?)
 - a. Suffering consequences for unwise choices... now while they can't do as much damage.
4. What it means to choose to love.

B. How do we do it?

1. It's rarely sitting down and lecturing.
2. Or simply sending them to Sunday school once a week doesn't count either.
3. Using life situations to teach truth.
 - a. Mom and Soccer Practice (Col 3:23)
4. Modeling... daily and authentically.
 - a. If they don't see Jesus making a difference in your life, why would they think he could make a difference in theirs?
 - b. Means you actually have to be there... physically, mentally, and emotionally.

C. Become a student of your children

1. Proverbs 22:6

2. Doesn't mean we force them into some idea of a "Christian" mold... with a bunch of DO's and Do NOT's.
3. Means we train them according to their individual bent, personality, the way God made them.
4. The way **THEY** should go.
5. Obviously with morals, and guidance, and understanding who God is...
6. But according to their personalities, preferences...
 - a. Some kids hate being sent to their room... others hope you tell them to go to their room.
 - b. Some kids are looking for a fight others just want to please.

7. You have to get to know your kid if you want to bring them up on the way EACH OF THEM *should* go.

D. Rely on the Holy Spirit

1. Impossible on your own... you will not get it perfectly right
2. But to be the parent your kids need you to be, to submit in this way you need to be filled with and controlled by the HS.
3. As he guides you to choose love and submit in your relationships he will guide you to choose to love your kids by submitting to their needs.

- E. Might look like... forcing yourself in the heat of that frustrating situation to shout in your head (or out-loud) "God help me choose to love and submit." And ask for **HIS** love and **HIS** wisdom.

1. What's awesome is if you have kids living with you... you're probably going to get a chance to practice this in the next 3 hours.

- F. Remember... Submissive parents create obedient children.
8. Not immediately... but over time... "When they are old they will no turn from it."

- G. Xian families chose to love by choosing to submit

- H. **Happy families accept the mission of submission.**

V. WE

- A. What would it be like?

1. Today?
2. Next year?
3. 20 years?

- B. Families... **Commit to obey and submit**

- C. It's illogical but it is the difference between who you are and who you can be.