

27 March



Break the ice

Write down what God is saying to you in today's message:

TOPIC: Book of Colossians – week 10



Let's hear your story

1. Who is Paul writing to in Colossians 3:20? **(To children.)**
2. What must children do according to v.20? **(Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.)**
3. According to v.20; should children obey only one parent or both parents? **(Children should obey both parents.)**
4. What does Psalm 127:3 in the Amplified version say? **(Children are a heritage and gift from the Lord.)**



Let's go deeper

5. Who is Paul writing to in v.21? **(To fathers.)**
6. What is Paul telling fathers to do in v.21? **(Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.)**
7. Can Jesus relate and sympathize with children? **(Yes, Luke 2:52 says Jesus increased in wisdom, in stature and favour with God and man.)**
8. What is the goal and purpose of parenting? **(For your children to love, serve and follow Jesus and to be with your children in the presence of God forever).**



Let's apply this

9. v.21; Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Paul encourages fathers to love, invest in, and care for their children.

Fathers how can you love and invest in your children:

- How can you serve, support and encourage your children this week?
- How can you meet the needs of your children this week?
- Which godly friend can you ask to help you grow as a godly father?
- Allow the Holy Spirit to speak and to empower you this week.

SUMMARY:

Colossians: Week 10 (How to enjoy your family)

Read: Colossians 3:20 – 21

Background and context: During the Roman Empire fathers were very domineering. A child was simply considered part of his estate, just like livestock or land, children had no legal rights and no authority above their father. So, if a father found himself just tired of his kids or in poverty needing to pay off a debt, he could take his sons and daughters and sell them into slavery. If you had a good dad you were blessed, but if you had a bad dad, you had a very painful difficult life. Paul is writing to the fathers to love, invest in and care for their children.

v.20; What obedience is not:

1. Obedience is not counting – this teaches your child not to obey, but to negotiate.
2. Obedience is not reverse psychology – to reward your child for disobedience.
3. Obedience is not bribing – bribing is to reward your child for bad behaviour.
4. Obedience is not parents obey your children.

SEVEN parenting principles:

1. Your child is your blessing – when you see them as a blessing you will speak life.
2. Your child is your responsibility – schools, churches can never replace parents.
3. The purpose of parenting is godliness – to be with your children in heaven forever
4. Your child must be born-again – as parents teach your children about God.
5. Your child is vulnerable and needs protection – when they older protect them from unhealthy relationships and decisions that can harm them.
6. Holy Spirit wants to help you – He has access to your child's heart and mind.
7. Enjoy your children – make memories with your children.

v.21; NINE ways parents can provoke and discourage their children:

1. Making more withdrawals (criticism), than deposits (encouragement).
2. Physical and verbal threats - intimidation, yelling, name calling, humiliating them.
3. Correction without instruction - when a child don't know what they did wrong.
4. The difference between sins and mistakes - mistakes is how we learn and is part of growing up. Disobedience and rebellion are sin.
5. Showing favouritism - when you prefer and choose one child over the other.
6. Being absent - we can be physically present, but emotionally absent.
7. Non-relational parenting style - lots of rules and very little relationship.
8. Not being fun - delight in spending time with your children.
9. Apologize - one of the most powerful things you can give your child is an apology.

TWO encouragements:

1. God wants to help you - you have a great Heavenly Father to help you.
2. You can point your children to Jesus - He can relate and sympathize with them.