

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR SHAPING A GODLY GENERATION

(Ephesians 6:1-3)

In God's divine wisdom, He created the family first and He designed it to be the building block with which He builds nations, governments and other human institutions. A strong nation is built upon strong families. The strength of any nation is premised upon the strength of the character of its families. Hence, the neglect of the home is detrimental and harmful to the well-being of a nation. What the children and youth of our nation ultimately need is a new heart that only God could give. **What our children ultimately need is God, the Word of God and the gospel of Christ which could genuinely change and shape their hearts unto godliness.** Ephesians 6:1-3 presents two biblical principles for shaping a godly generation that will glorify God and bless our nation.

1. *The _____ is a God-mandated duty.*

God's specific instruction to the children is obedience to their parents (Ephesians 6:1). The word obey means to listen under, to be subject to, to follow, to do what one is told and to carry out someone's orders. Paul exhorted the children to recognize that it is their God-mandated duty to faithfully obey their parents, to carefully listen to what they say, to willingly do what they ask them to do and to humbly submit themselves to the God-given authority of their father and mother. Prompt and willing obedience to one's parents in action, words and attitude is God's calling to every child living under the roof and authority of his or her parents (Colossians 3:20). Paul further explains that obedience to one's parents is right because it corresponds with the righteous precepts of God and it is in accordance with the holy law and sacred will of God (Ephesians 6:1; 2:2-3; Genesis 8:21; Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Ezekiel 36:26-27).

2. *The _____ is a lifetime responsibility.*

Paul expanded his instruction to the children by commanding them to honor their father and mother (Ephesians 6:2; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16). The word for honor means to value, to show high regard for, to revere. This term means more than following the instructions of one's father and mother but also living in such a way that one's parents feel valued, treasured and esteemed by their children. This command to honor our parents indicates a present, continuous and a lifetime responsibility. In the early years, while we are still young children or teenagers, we must honor our parents through compliance and obedience. In the middle years, when we are already adults, we must honor our parents by showing them appreciation and affection. And in the latter years, when our parents grow older, we must honor them through our care and attention. God delights in our obedience to honor our parents and promises His divine blessings and favors to those who heed His command (Ephesians 6:3).
