

God's High Thoughts And Ways For Children

An Age of Rebellion!

2 Timothy 3:1-5

- Verse 1. *"This know also that in the last days perilous times shall come.*
- Verse 2. *"For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy.*
- Verse 3. *"Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good.*
- Verse 4. *"Traitors, heady, highminded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God.*
- Verse 5. *"Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof, from such turn away.*

To Some Degree, Every time Period has been a Time when Children Disobeyed and Rebelled

- Consider Cain, Genesis 4:8
- Consider Esau, Genesis 26:34.
- Consider Joel and Abijah, I Samuel 8:2-3.
- Consider Absalom, 2 Samuel 15:5; 18:33.
- Today's world is especially conditioned to rebel. Think of the influence of modern movies, much of today's "music," the internet, the classroom, and even civil authorities which on occasion threaten parents who dare to spank their rebellious children. Now it is "cool" to be rebellious!

Important Facts to Consider:

- In former times, barrenness a source of grief.
 - Consider Rachel, Genesis 30:1.
 - Consider Hannah, I Samuel 1:10-11.
- The birth of children a time of great joy.
 - Consider Eve, Genesis 4:1.
 - Consider Rachel, Genesis 30:22-23.
 - Consider Elizabeth, Luke 1:7,13-14,57-58.
- It is possible for children to bring grief and disappointment, I Samuel 8:3,5; Proverbs 17:21,25.

Duties of Children to Parents – Obey them! Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20-21.

- Because *"it is right,"* Ephesians 6:1; and *"well pleasing to the Lord,"* Colossians 3:20.
- Obey them *"in all things,"* Colossians 3:20.
 - The only exception is when they ask you to do something contrary to God's will. Acts 5:29.
 - Obey them regarding who you "hang out" with, where you go, how you dress, what you watch on TV, when to go to bed, when to get up, and even if they are so "old fashioned" that, by comparison, Methuselah would appear to be a teenager!
- Consider the penalty for disobedience, Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Romans 1:30,32.

Duties of Children to Parents (continued)

- Honor them! Ephesians 6:2-3; Exodus 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16.
 - By listening to their instructions, Proverbs 6:20-23; 15:5; 23:22.
 - By speaking words of appreciation and respect, Proverbs 31:28.
 - By caring for them when they can no longer care for themselves, I Timothy 5:4,8,16.
- Live in such a way as to bring honor to your parents, Proverbs 17:21,25; 19:13.

Duties of Children to Parents – Follow the Example of Jesus, Luke 2:51-52

- Jesus was “*subject*” to His parents.
- Jesus increased:
 - “*In wisdom.*”
 - “*in stature.*”
 - “*In favor with God.*”
 - In favor with “*men.*”
 - Note: Jesus grew intellectually, physically, spiritually, and socially!

Duties of Children to Parents – Keep Yourself Pure, I Timothy 5:22

- Save your virginity for the marriage bed! Hebrews 13:4.
- Dress modestly, I Timothy 2:9-10!
- Control your thoughts, Philippians 4:8.
- Be a Joseph, Genesis 39:9.
- **Remember this:** You will never live long enough to regret having done what was right when you were young, and you will never get too old to cease regretting having done wrong when you were young!

Duties of Children to Parents – Learn to Work!

- 2 Thessalonians 3:10.
- Ephesus 4:28.
- Youth is the best time to learn to work, Lamentations 3:27.
- If your parents give you chores, and “make” you work, then thank both them and the Lord; sadly, many children in today’s world are not so fortunate!
- **Remember this:** Genuine Christians are not lazy!

Duties of Children to Parents – Get an Education or Learn a Trade!

- The world owes you an opportunity; it does not owe you a living.
- It is wrong to steal, Ephesians 4:28; it is a violation of the golden rule to ask others to support you if you are able to work, Matthew 7:12, and God expects people to provide for their own, I Timothy 5:8. To do this in today’s world you will need an education and some job skills. Don’t wait until you are nearly grown to start working in this direction!

Duties of Children to God

- Learn early to seek your “*Father’s business,*” Luke 2:49; Ecclesiastes 12:1; 2 Timothy 3:15.
- Learn to honor and fear God, Proverbs 2:1-5; 9:10.
- Obey God early in life, Ecclesiastes 12:1; I Timothy 4:12.
- Worship God, John 4:23-24; Revelation 4:11.

Duties of Children to God

- Remember that your relationship with Jesus **transcends all other relationships!**
 - Parent-child relationships, Matthew 10:34-35.
 - Brother-sister relationships, Luke 14:26.
 - Government-citizen relationship, Acts 5:29.
 - Have the attitude of Joshua, Joshua 24:15!
- **Make plans to go to heaven!**
 - That’s where the real treasure is! Matthew 6:19-21.

Conclusion:

- It is never too early for a responsible person to start making both plans and preparations to go to heaven!
- To go to heaven one must become a partaker of that “*heavenly calling*,” Hebrews 3:1.
- The “*heavenly calling*” is the call of the gospel, 2 Thessalonians 2:14.
 - The gospel is “*the power of God unto salvation*,” Romans 1:16, but it only saves those who obey the gospel, 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.