



OUR HOME LIFE

To help us mature physically, emotionally, and spiritually, God has provided us with a family. We all need people who will love us and help us become godly young people. God intends for a family to be a place where you are loved and valued and cared for and protected from the world. Your home should be the place where you learn how to be the right kind of person, love others, and serve them.

For the home and family to be effective in this mission, everyone must share responsibilities. Your attitude and willingness to be a part of the family are important.

God has given parents special responsibilities for the love and care of their children. Parents who choose to avoid their obligations to their children are choosing to disobey God.

PARENTS' RESPONSIBILITIES

We are going to talk about the parents' responsibilities first, and then we will see how your attitudes and actions affect the family. Read the verses below and explain the responsibilities indicated.

Verse	Parents' Responsibility
Deuteronomy 6:6-7	
Proverbs 22:6	
2 Corinthians 12:14	
Ephesians 6:4	
1 Timothy 3:4	
Titus 2:4	

HOW YOUR ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS AFFECT YOUR FAMILY

Sometimes young people do not realize the importance of their attitudes and how they will affect their future. There is so much for young people to do once they are in middle school. School life, studies, sports, church, hobbies, and friends take up so much time and energy. All of these may have a rightful place. But sometimes these outside things become so important that we forget about the most important people in our lives—our parents.

As young people, you probably do not realize that your parents will still be important long after you no longer have to study or long after you go to college and acquire new friendships. For most of you, your parents will not leave you or forget about you. That is difficult to realize right now because so many other things take up your thoughts and time. But it is still true.

God knows that the most important lessons for all of your youth are those you learn at home. If you learn from your parents and honor them, you will be better prepared to be a wonderful parent yourself. Part of growing up to be a mature person is understanding how much your attitudes and actions at home affect your whole life, and how you live reflects a picture to others about Jesus Christ. When you dishonor your parents, you dishonor Him as well.

Read the verses listed below, and record the effects your wise or foolish actions have upon your parents.

THE WISE YOUNG PERSON

Proverb	Father
10:1	
15:20	
23:24	
27:11	
29:3	

THE FOOLISH YOUNG PERSON

Proverb	Father	Mother
10:1		
15:20		
17:21		
17:25		
19:13		
19:26		
28:7		
30:11		

Your attitude toward your parents affects them greatly because much of their happiness and success is affected by your attitudes and actions.

PARENTS ARE HUMAN TOO

It is true that there will be times when your parents do things that make you angry. This can happen for many reasons. First, parents have bad days themselves and carry many concerns of which you are not aware. They have great responsibilities, one of which is to keep a good home for your family. Sometimes their hearts are heavy, and they don't seem to be hearing your problems. This is probably *not* because they do not care. They might be preoccupied with matters they have not mentioned to you. Secondly, sometimes your parents must say "no" to your wishes for reasons that you might not understand. When this happens, you should accept that they have wisdom *beyond* your understanding. They are concerned with your protection and welfare. It is always difficult to accept a "no"

from your parents, but when you realize that God works through your parents to bless you, it is easier to accept and submit to their final decisions as God's will for you. He gave you your parents, and He is giving them their wisdom.

Mothers and fathers have their own particular problems that God discusses in His Word. When your parents married, God says they became one flesh. But this does not mean that you are one flesh with your parents. You are separate from them and will one day leave their home and have your own home. This can be a problem for your mother because she has nurtured you and cared for you since you were born. She knows that you must leave one day, but it is hard for her to watch you grow up. She wants to keep you close to her.

Often, a dad's greatest struggle is in the area of discipline. Although he is commanded to discipline, a dad might be guilty of either under-disciplining or of over-disciplining. What does Ephesians 6:4 say about this second problem?

Although your dad may not always discipline you the way you think he should, remember that he loves you. The correction he gives is intended for your benefit. No one does everything perfectly at all times. You make mistakes, and so do your parents. When your parents mishandle a situation, you need to accept their mistake and forgive them. This is the same response you hope for from them if you make a mistake. You can trust that they will keep loving you anyway and not hold your past mistakes against you.

GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD REBELLION

In the Old Testament, a rebellious and ungrateful young person received severe discipline. While this would not happen today, it shows us clearly how God feels about a young person who dishonors his parents. Read Deuteronomy 21:18-21 and answer the questions below.

What wrong attitudes did the parents find in their son?

What discipline was given because of these attitudes?

Other passages in the Old Testament show how seriously God takes the sin of dishonoring parents. Read Exodus 21:15; Leviticus 20:9; and Proverbs 30:17. Although you do not have to worry about this type of treatment today, what penalty was given for those who showed rebellion against their parents?

What do these stories prove to us about how God views our attitudes toward our parents?

A ROOT OF BITTERNESS

God does not bless a young person who is rebellious (inwardly or outwardly) toward his parents. If we do not accept what our parents tell us, if we cause them heartache and worry instead, and if we are not at peace with them in our own hearts, what will spring up in our hearts? (See Heb. 12:15.)

Some bitterness begins in the home with a wrong attitude toward your parents or brothers and sisters. Since it begins as a root in your life, it soon grows like cancer deeper into your heart, until it gradually affects your relationship with your teachers, your pastor, and even your friends. A bitter, rebellious attitude will affect everyone in your life, whether you want it to or not. Hebrews 12:15 describes two effects of bitterness in our life. What are they?

1.

2.

Be honest! How do you feel about your father's instruction and advice?

How do you react to your parents' correction and punishment?

AN IMPORTANT PROMISE

Read Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16; and Ephesians 6:1-3; and explain God's promise to young people who honor and obey their parents.

It is also important to understand that if your parents were to allow you to have a wrong attitude. If they let you disobey or show disrespect without correcting you, they would not be helping you. In the long run, they would be keeping God's blessings from you, and that would not be loving. Part of their loving you is their correcting you.

GRATEFULNESS OVERCOMES WRONG ATTITUDES

One way to handle those times when you do not agree with your parents is to remind yourself of the wonderful things they have done for you. Remind yourself that your parents have loved you and provided for you and have been planning for your future. Remember the things they have done for you, and be thankful. A thankful attitude cannot hold on to bitterness and anger. List below some of the things that your parents do to show they love you, care for your needs, and want the best for you.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.

7.
8.
9.
10.

TEACHER'S LESSON

Five Facts About Discipline

1. Discipline is and .
 2. Discipline is by God.
 3. Discipline is due to .
 4. Discipline produces .
- Rules and regulations are not designed just
but are also .
5. The most important factor in discipline is .

