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**Lesson Four: Parents and Children.**

**Introduction.** We saw in our first lesson that our family in the flesh can also become part of our spiritual family when members of our fleshly family are obedient to the gospel. Interaction in the home is one of the most significant ways in which this can happen.

**I. Parents’ Responsibility to Children.**

A. Spiritual Training.

1. Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord (Eph. 6:4; cf. Prov. 1:2; 1:8; Deut. 11:2). What is this?

 How can parents do this?

2. Establish proper attitudes toward authority in the home, in our relationship to God, in the church, and in society. The importance of respect for authority (Exod. 20:12; Lev. 19:32; Deut. 28:49-50; Rom. 13:1-2; Isa. 66:1-2). What are some ways we can help establish respect for authority?

 How can we teach respect for teachers, and leaders in the church?

1. Discipline and its purpose. What will discipline grant to parents (Prov. 29:17)?

What is it intended to yield (Heb. 12:11)?

What are some things it accomplishes (Prov. 13:24; 22:15; 29:15)?

Does this conflict with the world’s attitude towards raising children?

B. Teaching Children to Worship God.

1. Children in the assembly. What should be our attitude when we enter the “house of God” (Ecc. 5:1; cf. 1 Tim. 3:15)?

 What is the purpose of the assembly (1 Cor. 14:15, 26)?

 How can we train our children to worship, not just to kill time?

2. Priorities in the home. What should we seek over all things (Matt. 6:33)?

 How should we love God (Mark 12:29-30)?

 How should we teach this to children?

 How should this affect school, work, and entertainment priorities?

C. The Example of Parents.

1. Affect of our own attitudes. Talking about others in front of our kids. How might our words about brethren affect our children (Eph. 4:31-32)?

 What should we avoid (1 Thess. 5:22)?

2. Talking about religious things. When were the Israelites to talk to their children about the word of God(Deut. 6:6-9)?

 How can we do this?

 How can we help our children see that heaven is our goal (Phil. 3:12-14)?

 Can the Bible serve as the guidebook for family rules (Psa. 119:105-106)?

 How might this affect tough choices?

 Openness to help with problems. Can these Scriptures apply to our children (1 Thess. 5:14; Gal. 6:1-2)?

 How?

**II. Responsibilities of Children to Parents.**

A. If our parents are Christians.

1. Look to their example. Listen to them. Ask them questions.

2. Don’t disregard their advice and insight.

B. If our parents aren’t Christians.

1. Set a good example of obedience. Show that faith is important to you.

2. Talk to them about your faith. Look for opportunities to influence them.