

## THE GREATEST NEEDS OF TODAY'S HOMES

Text: Ephesians 6:1-4

INTRO: What are the greatest needs of homes & families today? No, it's not education. It's not recreation. Paul's message to the Ephesians long ago spells out what was then, and still today, are the greatest needs for our homes and families.

I. CHILDREN OBEY YOUR PARENTS. First great duty God has commanded of children who are old enough to understand the words.

A. In the Lord=so long as what they ask of you is in harmony with the Lord's will; not contrary to God's law.

B. It is right.

1. The order of a family & of a society depends on it. Someone has to lead. Someone has to follow.

2. The welfare of the child depends on it. A child needs to be guided to comply with the rules for his own sake & that of the family & community.

3. Because the parent by age & experience is better qualified to determine right from wrong.

4. Because God said so.

II. HONOR YOUR FATHER & MOTHER.

A. When this command was 1<sup>st</sup> given to Israel in EX 20:12, a promise was attached to it – “that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.”

B. “Honor” is an additional command that goes deeper than “obey.”

1. Our behavior anywhere & always reflects on our parents.

2. Treat them with respect. As you get older, you will not always agree with them. But you must do the best you can to always respect them.

3. Honor them by the way you talk **to** them and **about** them.
4. As they grow older and you mature, be patient with them.
5. The time may come when you will need to care & provide for them as they once did for you.

III. FATHERS, DO NOT PROVOKE YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH.

- A. Addressed to fathers because they are the heads of the home. Obviously will also apply to mothers as they exercise their manage the house in keeping with 1 Tim. 5:14.
- B. Ask of them what is reasonable.
- C. Correct them with love and understanding.
- D. Do your best to be consistent in dealing with them.
- E. Do not constantly remind them of how much you sacrifice for them, and how much they owe you.

IV. BRING THEM UP IN THE TRAINING & ADMONITION OF THE LORD.

- A. Teach them to know the Lord, to love the Lord.
- B. Teach them to respect the Scriptures & seek to understand & be guided by them.
- C. This training & molding should begin while they are still infants. The first place we took our children was to church. It didn't hurt them & it might have done them some good.
- D. Young children should be taken to worship services and taught to be reasonably still and reasonably quiet. For very small children it is perfectly appropriate to take a quiet toy or two to help them pass the time. When children are old enough to grasp what the preacher or teacher is saying, they should be expected to listen, pay attention.

E. Practice your Christianity at home as well as at the worship services.

CONCLUSION: Since time immemorial the basic needs of people have not changed. The next generation will need what the last generation needed. We need to reverence God & keep His commandments just as our forefathers needed to do, and our children need to be taught to fear God & keep His commandments, and to teach their children likewise. This is the whole duty of man, Eccl. 12:13.

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, April 18, 2004