

Colossians 3:20-21

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Our Motivation behind Obedience is the Gospel

John 14:31 but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father.

John 12:49 For I have not spoken on my own authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment- what to say and what to speak.

John 5:19 So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise.

Colossians 3:20-21

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Our Motivation behind Obedience is the Gospel

Gospel Clause

The Law of Christ always take precedence over parental orders

Colossians 3:20-21

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

What does Paul mean by Discouraged?

- Our kids give up obeying

Does this effect the Gospel?

- Yes! There is a correlation between gospel embrace and relational health.

Colossians 3:20-21

20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

### Two Markers Toward Discouragement

- Passivity
- Perfectionism

### The Passive Dad

- Tries to love with minimal to no correction
- Risk the danger of not confronting sin in his child but renames it
- Self worth comes from the child's approval

### Results

1. Rebellion: Motivation is to look for love/attention through discipline

2. His intentions are to love his kids however, because of his inaction the kid feels unloved

3. A warped Gospel is the model for the child

### The Perfectionistic Dad

- Risk the danger of Discipline without Love
- The dad can't discern the difference between immaturity and disobedience so he disciplines both
  - A controlling spirit and overcorrection seems to be a theme in the relationship
  - He can punish his children with withdrawal of love and approval for nonperformance

### Results

1. Rebellion: The child wants to be affirmed of his father's love no matter what

2. It might produce a shell of obedience but their hearts are not being nurtured in the gospel

3. Hearts are motivated by fear and not grace

How do we lead our kids toward  
Grace Based Love?

Col 3:16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Are we letting the word of Christ dwell in us richly?

How do we lead our kids toward  
Grace Based Love?

Reject Gospel Distortion

- The Passive Dad: Affirms a license to sin (A False Grace)
- Comes from the fear of Man
- If you believe the gospel gives you the freedom to stay in your sin (that gets transferred in your formation)

Romans 6:1-2 What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to

sin still live in it?

How do we lead our kids toward  
Grace Based Love?

Reject Gospel Distortion

- The Perfectionistic Dad: Seeking to make your life pleasing to God (trying to gain favor with God?)
- Transfer a false formation
- You can foster obedience in your kids apart from the Love of Jesus.

Galatians 3:3

Are you so foolish? Having begun by the Spirit,  
are you now being perfected by the flesh?

How do we lead our kids toward Grace Based Love?

### Repentance

- Recognition of sin is only shameful when you don't get the gospel
- When you fail don't make excuses
- Model the gospel with your life
- Confess sin
- Ask for forgiveness
- Share through life how Jesus has forgiven you
- Always model to your kids the Gospel motivation behind why you do what you do