**Colossians – Pre-eminence** – **wk 7 – The Big House**

**Background: Paul – 6yr old Colossae – Epaphras needed counsel…**

**Theme – The preeminence of Christ in all things**

**So far… Knowing the real Jesus / putting on a new life in Christ / Single life and marriage life…**

**Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

**Last week: 18-19 We unpacked two verses about marriage.**

**This week the following 2 verses. Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, (parents) do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged. (For parents and Kids)**

**Okay, you don’t have any children – don’t check out this is for everyone – this will help you with anyone you care about.**

**Waiting to have kids (5yrs) - trying to have kids – finding out you’re going to - first time I held my baby – first diaper change – the drive home – first night without sleep - first time a laugh, a band-aid, kiss, hug, first daddy, or I love you - I was way over my head – my family was not exactly a healthy model. (then went to B&N got books and watched nanny 911 and had it all figured out) I am not speaking as an expert – I’ve made my mistakes**

**Being a parent is - THE WORLD’S BEST and HARDEST JOB**

**You have to be tested, trained, and licensed to drive a car but anyone can have a child…**

**When you look through scripture you see the reality of being a parent – The heroes of the bible struggled at parenting.**

**OT - Adam – kids killed each other (1st family story one gets killed the other a life sentence…) They couldn’t blame it on the school system or media… Abraham – not so honest / Jacob – played favorites divided kids / High priest in Samuel – raised wild / cheating / kids - having sex in church kids – were an embarrassment / Samuel’s Kids were untrusting / David – three kids killed by their siblings – 1 rape – and one that even tried to murder David (his dad).**

**NT – God hands pics earthly parents to raise his son – and the only story we have other than his birth, they loose him for 3 days – other passages refer to the challenge and reward of parenting.**

**With this Paul writes - Col 3:20 Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, (parents) do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.**

**Vs 20-21 is a reference to a letter shared with them from Ephesus - 100 miles east of Colossae - Passed around, Colossae would have got this.**

**Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. - Let's take a look at these**

**FOR THE KIDS & TEENS: (Inside the home)**

**\*\* Honor and obey your parents**

**Col 3:20 Children obey your parents in everything… / Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. / Pro 6:20 My son, obey your father’s commands, and don’t neglect your mothers instruction.**

**For this is right! Obey = listen and do, compliant w/out attitude**

**Obey “everything” \* Is there a time to disobey your parent? Yes**

**You obey “in the Lord” If a parent asks you to disobey God’s word or to dishonor God – you can not do this in the Lord.**

**This is not rules, curfew, or chores. Even if unreasonable.**

**\*\* You honor and worship God when you honor and obey your parents**

**Col 3:20 Children obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.**

**It pleases the LORD - When you respect a parent's authority, he is respecting God’s order of authority in life. It reflects Christ in you.**

**These passages are about young children at home. But, what about…**

**FOR THE ADULT KIDS: For those outside the home**

**You might think this does not apply to you.**

**Eph 6:2 "Honor your father and mother" - which is the first commandment with a promise 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." (Quoting Ex 20 – the Ten Commandments)**

**\*\* You’re never too old to Honor your mother and father**

**This is for every child – young and old**

**“Honor” - What does that mean? Attitude of respect. To prize them.**

**Listening, not mock, gossip, complain, protect reputation (Noah’s sons).**

**“Long life on the land” – Does that mean I’ll live a long life?**

**Listen to and honor your parent’s instructions about the LORD and you will be live in this land for a long time.**

**Honor your parents and live a life without conflict and trouble.**

**FOR THE PARENTS:**

**Col 3:21 Fathers do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.**

**Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

**\*\* Teach your children to obey through consistent discipline**

**Col 3:20 Children obey your parents**

**We don’t need to teach kids to disobey – they got that down. We all do. Sin nature. We are all bent toward sin.**

**Genesis 8:21 – Every inclination of the heart is evil from childhood…**

**Proverbs 22:15 - Foolishness is bound up in a child.**

**Psalm 51:1 - Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me. (meaning I was born in and with sin)**

**Obedience must be taught – it does not just happen.**

**Hebrews 12:6-9 “…the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and he chastens everyone he accepts as his son.” Endure hardship as discipline; God is treating you as his children. For what children are not disciplined by their father? If you are not disciplined—and everyone undergoes discipline—then you are not legitimate, not true sons and daughters at all.**

**We are to do the same. If we love our kids, we will discipline**

**Proverbs 19:18 - Discipline your son, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to his death. (Discipline while there is hope, Otherwise you will ruin their life – NLT. Resulting in a lack of self-control)**

**Kids thrive with healthy and reasonable boundaries.**

**What is Discipline? Tough topic.**

**- Punishment**

**- Restrictions / removal of possessions**

**- Spanking (Prov 22:15, 13:24, 20:30, 23:14, 29:15)**

**- Punishment that works for each child, for each is different.**

**Not every child responds to spanking the same.**

**Prison and the streets are filled with adults who were spanked as kids. It is not the fix-all and can be worse.**

**Concerning Discipline - Discipline that looks Like God’s**

**- Consistency and follow through (not threats)**

**- Set clear boundaries and consequences before**

**Instead of making it up. 5th time I told you – don’t make me get up (no intention on getting up) You’re eroding your authority.**

**Proverbs 13:24 - He who spares the rod hates his son, but he who loves him is *careful to discipline* him.**

**- Keep your word; if you do this, I will do this… then do it**

**- Don’t have rules without reasons**

**Allow your kids to ask why - It helps them, and you understand**

**BTW - Some battles are not worth fighting - Maybe you don’t like green hair – maybe it’s not worth fighting about – Just let me know when you’re coming around the corner**

**- Respond – don’t react**

**You can’t control your child’s actions, but you can control yours.**

**Never discipline out of anger – rage – or frustration.**

* **Pause – Pray – Respond**

**Prov 5:21 For a man’s ways are before the eyes of the LORD, and he ponders all his paths. 22 The iniquities of the wicked ensnare him, and he is held fast in the cords of his sin. 23 He dies for lack of discipline, and because of his great folly he is led astray.**

**Dies = self-destruct with poor choices. We see this everyday.**

**\*\* Encourage more than you criticize.**

**Col 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.**

**Eph 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children**

**Don’t exhaust - frustrate – drive mad - or parent out of anger. For some, there goes your parenting style…**

**“Do not provoke” - negative, harsh, over-critical, insensitive, words and actions - always pointing out the bad – perpetual fight finding - this torments rather than trains.**

**Paul says straight up - Sometimes the issue is not the child – it might be the parent who is provoking it.**

**The Bible is unique in culture here – a challenge to think about the child’s feelings – this was unheard of.**

**“…parents do not exasperate your kids”**

**Pick that up, get ready, do this, don’t be late again, straighten up… etc.**

**How much of your conversation is trying to set them straight, control, discipline – rather than encourage?**

**“lest they get discouraged” - devastating words if you love your children.**

**Be gracious, gentle, forgiving, patient.**

**\*\* Rules without relationship lead to rebellion.**

**“bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord”**

**(KJV) – “Bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”**

**You are to - nourish and nurture.**

* **Discipline (Training) – corrective – hard part**
* **Instruction (Admonition) – encouraging – loving**

**Love and discipline – powerful ingredients that must be together.**

**(We are to - speak the truth in love – Eph 4:15)**

**Without it bitterness and resentment set in.**

**Words of love / affirmation / playfulness / activities.**

**- Kids spell ‘Love’: T I M E (not GIFT – or the occasional vacation)**

**It‘s not about quality time, but quantity of time – Quality time can never make up for the years and months that are missed…**

**I have to catch this with myself… as my kids get older I realize how much time I missed –**

**“I don’t have the time” – make it happen – cut something – rearrange, cancel events, be home]together – cheat something**

**Make sure they know they are loved – by loving them in ways they feel loved. Love language – do more of that.**

**- Kids spell ‘Love’: L I S T E N**

**Being a good listener and talking lovingly takes time.**

**Are we talking at them, lecturing, or listening – with them or at them?**

**\* How was school, school stinks – well stop goofing off. You shut them down. \* How was school? School stinks my teachers hate me – you’re okay nobody hates you – You invalidated them.**

**Try - why do you think that? Listen… learn… enter the culture & wait to be invited into that chariot**

**Survey as a youth pastor – how often do you have meaning full talks with your parents = about 5 min a week. How often do they say I love you – 1 a month - I wish my parents would – understand me more – see things from my perspective – talk about little things too – be more involved in my life - listen to each other & listen to me – be natural…**

**When was the last time you just listened just to understand?**

**You will - Pay now or pay later - James 1:19 – be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger (applies to us with our kids too)**

**Conversations - if I listen about puppy’s, Barbie’s, & playing – they might talk to me about Friday night when they are 16. Brush them off now and eventually they won’t come back… For some the investment was missed 12yrs too late – you’re picking up pieces.**

**Deut 6:5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, (hanging out behind closed doors – it’s a reality) and when you walk by the way, (daily life – it a reality) and when you lie down, and when you rise. (morning and evenings – it’s a reality) 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, (what you do) and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. (what you see) 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. (it is a reality of your everyday life).**

**\*\* You are the model for God and integrity**

**You are to love the LORD… You teach what you live! You model it! It is to be authentic. It is more than an occasional Sunday.**

**Is it real in you? Do you lie, steal, gossip, swear, have a real prayer life, faithful witness? Follow me as I follow Jesus.**

**My girls have learned about men from me – I love on them, value them, tell them they’re beautiful. Some day another man will be there… what will they be looking for… A son learning to be a man.**

**Proverbs 20:7 The righteous walk in integrity, blessed are his children who follow them.**

**Our children will by default imitate you and follow you.**

**Make your first priority G O D, not G P A or M V P**

**We get so off base... It’s about them growing toward Jesus**

**I just want my daughters to know, love, and serve Christ**

**2 Final Thoughts From Col 3:21**

**Col 3:21 – Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.**

**Paul was writing an encouragement the parents to grow**

**\*\* Grow as a parent – you're not always right**

**The way you communicate, love, act – learn grow**

**Apologize to your kids when you’re wrong – build equity.**

**\*\* You can stack the deck in your favor, but still draw a Joker**

**Paul does not have a guarantee clause or promise.**

**What about - Proverbs 22:6 - Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it. This is not a guarantee of Godly kids? This is about a child's bent – skills & interests. A child will ultimately choose their own life according to God’s will.**

**So much more could be said on this topic.**

**Maybe you feel you have failed as a parent. Frustration/hopelessness**

* **Mercy and grace for the mistakes – in Jesus.**
* **Strength and courage to do it differently – thru Jesus by the HS.**

**Col 3:17And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.**

* + **Pray for the parents / Pray for the kids**