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# The Christian Household

In the context of Ephesians 5:21, Paul now addresses the relationship between parents and children. Using both the natural law of creation and the revealed law in the Old Testament, Paul has a word for both children and parents.

## Ephesians 6:1-4

**1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), **3** “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” **4** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### I. A Word to the Children

a. Children in the home are commanded to obey their parents, “for this is right.” The natural order of things under a Divine Creator shows us that this makes sense. Furthermore, we can see how the stance of a child toward his/her parents is meant to reflect the stance of the creation toward the Creator.

b. Children (of all ages) are commanded to honor their father and mother, remembering the Fifth Commandment. Again, we want to revere our parents as a reflection of our reverence for God.

### II. A Word to the Parents

Our authority in the home is meant to be administered under restraint. We are not the supreme authority in our homes. God is. And as stewards of His children, we are to “discipline” and “instruct” our children toward the Lord.

### Discussion Questions

1. In what ways does our culture correctly live out the natural law regarding the relationship of children to their parents?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. What are ways in which we can continue to honor our father and mother even as we grow older?

