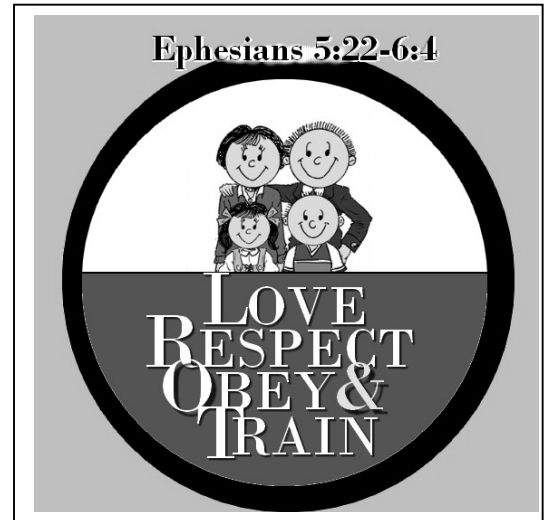


# Obey & Train Ephesians 6:1-4

## Getting Started

1. Have you ever received a parking or speeding ticket? What happened? What was your initial reaction?
2. Did you ever hear of a parent telling a child, "This is going to hurt me more than it's going to hurt you?" What did you think?
  - "Want to trade places?"
  - "I don't believe that."
  - "So, don't do it!"
  - "You'll appreciate this later."
  - "I know how you feel."
  - "Wish more parents felt that way."



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## In the Word (Eph. 6:1-4; Col. 3:20-21; Proverbs 1:8-9; 3:11-12; 13:1, 24; 19:18; 29:15, 17)

Groups are not expected to discuss all questions!

In Paul's letters to the churches in Ephesus and Colosse he instructs children to obey their parents and then warns parents (Fathers) to be careful how they treat their children.

1. (**Ephesians 6:1-3 and Colossians 3:20**) Compare what Paul has to say about obeying parents in these two passages. In what ways are they alike? How do they differ? Is this a significant difference? Why or why not?
2. What passage is being quoted in Ephesians 6:2-3? What does Paul's use of this passage in this context tell you about God's enduring plan for families? What else might be significant about its use?
3. (**Ephesians 6:4 and Colossians 3:21**) What similarities do you notice between these two passages (if it helps, make a list)? Who is specifically addressed? Are you surprised by what they are told to do/not do?
4. Why do you think these instructions are put in negative terms? What is Paul trying to make sure they avoid? How could these types of problems develop? Be avoided?
5. (**Proverbs**) Take the time to read through all of the passages from proverbs and, if you wish, include some others. What do these passages say about a parent's responsibilities? A child's response? The relationship between discipline and later decisions?

## Application

1. This week make a point of encouraging a child in their faith.

## Prayer Time:

Please pray for all the children of the Grand Central Church and their parents. Also, please pray for those families with whom we've made contact during VBS.

As a group, share a time of prayer where you pray aloud, by name for all the children (and pregnant mothers) associated with your group's families.