

# My Place in the Home

We explained why a Christian home is so important in the first lesson and defined what a Christian home is in the second lesson. Now we need to talk about your place in this home. As a young person, your home is not meant to be a permanent dwelling place. You are just passing through on the road to maturity. God gave you to your parents to raise and it is expected that at the right time, you will leave to establish your own home. In this lesson, I want you to broadly understand the goals God has set for your parents in raising you. I also want you to understand how they are taught by God to do this work and finally, how you should respond to their work.

## The Goal for Youth

Ephesians 6:4 says, “And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” The phrase “bring them up” literally means to raise something to maturity. Read Genesis 2:24. What type of person leaves a father and mother? What does this teach us about the goal of parenting?

When God institutes marriage, He says, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother...” We are raising adults, not children.

Now read Psalm 144:12. This psalm is the prayer of David while out in the battlefield. He was a successful warrior who longed to return to his home and family because there was a GREATER accomplishment than winning a battle he longed for. What did David desire to see? Is this consistent with Ephesians 6:4 and Genesis 2:24? David wanted to see his children raised to maturity. He knew that as a father, he needed to be there to guide the process. This is consistent with Genesis and Ephesians; the goal for parents is to raise their children to maturity.

Take a moment to look around you. Do you see this happening today in our culture? Are adults leaving their parents or are grown children leaving?

## The Job of Parents

2 Timothy 3:14-17 provides fantastic guidance to parents on how they go about the process of parenting. Although you aren't a parent, it is useful for you to understand how parenting is supposed to work. Second Timothy was written by the Apostle Paul to Timothy, a young pastor at the Church of Ephesus. Based on what we know from Scripture, his mother and grandmother were saved but there is no mention that he had a saved father or grandfather. His mother and grandmother were the most significant people in his life spiritually.

Read 2 Timothy 3:14-15 first. What is the first and foremost goal for parents? The most important goal for parents to have for their children is that they come to know the Lord Jesus personally through faith.

Can parents accomplish this goal by themselves? What resource does 2 Timothy 3:15 mention that is essential to bringing a child (or anyone) to a saving knowledge of Christ? God's Word must be taught to the children so that they can understand who God is, why they need a Savior, and who that Savior is. They must also know that He will answer those who seek Him. All of these truths are found in Scripture. Parents must share God's Word!

Along with helping the child come to a saving knowledge of Jesus, there is more work that must be done. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17 now. Several qualities are listed in verse 16 that we will describe in more detail in a moment. First, I want you to notice what the goal of this instruction is in verse 17. It says, “that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.” What does “perfect” mean in this passage? Perfect means complete or mature. It isn't saying that we will be brought to a state of sinlessness in this life, but that God's Word can bring us to a place of spiritual maturity.

We know 2 Timothy 3:14-15 applies to children, but what about verses 16-17? Based on our answer to the previous question, do you believe it is reasonable to understand that 2 Timothy 3:16-17 still applies to child-raising? Is this consistent with what we studied about the goal of parenting in the last section? I believe 2 Timothy 3:16-17 is consistent with the whole basis of parenting. Parents are charged with raising their children to maturity, which is what “perfect” means in this passage.

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2 Timothy 3:16 teaches us how to raise children to the maturity, as discussed in verse 17. The Apostle Paul lays it out for us step by step.

## *Doctrine*

The word “doctrine” used to remind me of what seemed like boring sermons when I was young. What does the word, “doctrine” really mean? **It means teaching.**

Read Deuteronomy 6:6-9, in which further describes how parents are to teach their children.

- 1) Parents are to teach **diligently**, meaning with a focused **plan**.
- 2) Parents are to teach all the **time**, by **example**, in all areas of **life**.

Now read Proverbs 1:8-9. How are you supposed to respond to the teaching of your parents? **You are supposed to hear and obey (forsake not) their instruction. Their instruction is meant to be a blessing to your life.**

## *Reproof*

To reprove means to convince someone that they are guilty of sin. Unfortunately, you inherited a sin nature from your parents and it is easier for you to disobey God than to obey Him. You have sinned and you will continue to sin, even if you are saved. It is your parents’ job to show you when you are wrong, ideally by using God’s Word.

It is never enjoyable to be shown you are wrong, but we ALL need to hear it sometimes. Read Proverbs 27:6, which describes the “wounds of a friend”. What does this mean? Can it apply to your parents? **The wounds of a friend are described as faithful, meaning good or helpful. It isn’t enjoyable to be reprovved, but the words of reproof are good medicine when we are sin-sick. I believe this passage applies to the godly reproof of a parent.**

## *Correction*

Correction is the process of helping someone back on their feet after they have stumbled. In this case, correction follows reproof. After your parents show you your guilt, they are instructed to set you back on the right path. Ephesians 4:22-28 explains this process in more depth. Read this passage and answer the following questions.

What does “putting off the old man” and “putting on the new man” mean? **The old man is a description of sin and our manner of living before salvation. The new man describes a life of righteousness following Jesus Christ. We are being told to quit sinning and start living like a Christian.**

Explain some of the examples of this found in verses 25-28. **Lying is to be replaced by speaking the truth; anger/bitterness is supposed to be replaced by solving relationship problems daily; and stealing is to be replaced by working to give to those in need. In short, sin must be replaced by righteousness.**

Read Proverbs 3:11-12 now. How do you respond to your parents’ correction? Do you despise it or receive it?

## *Instruction in Righteousness*

Finally, the word “instruction” actually means training. Parents are to train their children in righteousness. This happens by building godly habits through repetition, disciplining for sin, and blessing for obedience. Training in righteousness forms our character. Hebrews 5:12-14 speaks to a group of Christians who should be more mature but were still in need of the “milk” (the basics) of Christianity. What did the writer of Hebrews say was necessary for them to reach maturity (see verse 14)? **They needed to exercise (train) their senses to be able to discern good from evil. Spiritual maturity is the result of focused training, not age.**

Do you believe maturity is something that naturally occurs with age or is it the result of growth in knowledge, experience, and character?

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## The Response of Children to Parents

Now that you understand what parents are to do, let's take a moment to discuss how you are to respond to them. Read Ephesians 6:1-3 and answer the following questions.

What does verse one instruct children to do, and what does this mean? **Children are to obey their parents, which means hearing and following their instruction and guidance.**

Verse two uses a different word, "honor" to describe the way a child should treat their parents. Honor is distinct from obedience. You can obey someone without honoring them. How do you honor your parents? **Honoring begins with the heart, which describes our attitude. We need to respect them and hold them in high regard because God has placed them in authority over our life for our good. We honor them by the way we receive their words of instruction and guidance, by the way we speak to and about them, and by the way we treat them.**

When you roll your eyes at your parents, argue, ignore, mock, and complain about your parents to your friends, are you living in obedience to God's command to honor them or are you rebelling against God? **To act that way toward parents is to live in rebellion against God. Again, honor has to do with attitude and all of the behaviors mentioned above are means of dishonoring parents. This is a sin against God and your parents.**

Is there a limit to my parent's authority? We must address this question because unfortunately, some parents go beyond the authority God invested in them. What condition does God place on parent's authority in verse one? **"in the Lord" is the condition.**

"In the Lord" doesn't refer to parents who are saved. "In the Lord" refers to the clear commands that God has given us in Scripture. For example, when the governmental powers told the Apostle Peter that he must quit preaching in the name of Jesus, he said, "We must obey God rather than men." (Acts 5:29). The limit to all authority is the clear teaching of God's Word. By this, we mean that you must obey your parents UNLESS they tell you to do something or seek to do something to you that is AGAINST God's Word. For example, if they tell you to steal, kill, or lie, you have God's authority to disobey that specific command (not everything else they say). If your parents or guardians attempt to sexually or physically abuse you, you have God's authority to resist. I'm not talking about spankings here, but real abuse. If your parents or guardians have done these things to you, you should seek protection through other family members, the church, and/or the government.