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Obey, Honor & Raise (Eph 6:1-4)

Consider the term *education*. In Chinese characters, the character for “*teach*” and “*raise*” were combined for the term *education*. In English, the term comes from the Latin word *educare* which combines *ex*(*from, out of, from within*) + *ducere*(*to lead, conduct, guide*), to mean to bring up, rear, train, lead out.

We can see that both eastern and western philosophies have the common idea for the concept of education. The purpose of education is to help people develop. To do this, they are taught to let go of their own thoughts and be instructed. Since we cannot learn everything on our own, we learn from others. We learn to look at ourselves through other people.

Dearest friends, education starts with the family. This is because the family is the first to show what to see, what to hear, and what to feel. This home training involves both parents and children. You are not a family just because you live together, but you become a family when parents know how to teach, and children know how to learn.

Today's Scripture, Eph 6:1-4, can be broken down into the three parts: obey, honor, and raise. These three things are so that we can love. Man was created to be loved and to love. The first step to love is obedience. First and foremost, we must obey the Word of God. Children who obey the Word become parents who raise their children by the Word.

*(1) Children, obey your parents (Eph 6:1)! The place of a child is obedience. The term for "obedience" in Greek is hupakouo which is made up of two words hupo (by, under), and akouo (to hear, to listen) together meaning to hear under; to listen attentively; to conform to authority; to be obedient.*

Is there anyone who has learned anything by hearing it in passing? Absolutely not. One must be focused to learn. This is because learning begins with prudent listening. This doesn't necessarily mean that children must obey their parents no matter what, but must obey in the Lord. There is a country where there are 1 million girls in their teens who are being prostituted and who ultimately end up dying from disease or become dejected.

There are parents who sell their children under 10 years of age to prostitution and threaten their children not to believe in God and say that He does not exist. However, what does the Bible teach us? Children must regard their parents *in the Lord*, or in other words *by faith*, because that is righteous. It is just because when done in faith, God's will can be done! Consider the faith shown by Abram in Gen 12:1!

*(2) Honor your father and mother (Eph 6:2)! The term for "honor" in Greek is timao meaning to prize or to revere. The secret of longevity lies with the act of*

honoring your father and mother. Those who appear in Gen 5 are a testament to this notion. They served their parents in faith. By faith they listened to the Word!

The Lord says in Jn 12:26, "*Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.*" Here, the same Greek word *timao* is used for the word "*honor*". Just as Jesus honored His Father, we too, must honor our parents.

In Jn 8:49, Jesus says, "*I am not possessed by a demon, but I honor my Father and you dishonor me.*" Again, *timao* is used for the word "*honor*". Dearest friends, do not forget that between obedience and being raised, there is the act of honoring. If you love and serve your parents in faith, all things will go well with you and you may enjoy long life on earth (Eph 6:3, Ex 20:12)!

*(3) Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord (Eph 6:4)! Parents must address their children through faith so not to lose them. If you handle them with your own personal thoughts, both of you can become angry and be on bad terms. Impractical comparisons or expectations, criticism, and abuse of all kinds arise from the thoughts of man. However, parents who practice the Word, bring up their children in faith. In the Lord, training and instruction are by grace.*

Education is *paideia* (from "pais" meaning infant) which means to discipline and train from the breast-feeding stages of faith to grown men and women. Admonish is *nouthesia* which contain the words *nous* meaning the *heart*, and *tithemi* which means *to place, lay, or set*. Together, creating the meaning, *to give advice to or warn until it reaches the heart*.

Wrongful admonition can cause deep scars in children, however justified admonition are the way to life (Pr 6:23, 13:13)! There is eternal darkness and shame where there is no learning in faith and no education through God's Word. Beloved friends, we are not suddenly parents one day. We are not parents automatically. *Children of the Lord become parents in the Lord!*