FAMILY FOR THE GLORY OF GOD, PART 3: CHILDREN Colossians 3:20

Children, obey. Why does the apostle use the word obey instead of honor, which has a greater extent of meaning? It is because obedience is the evidence of that honor which children owe to their parents, and is therefore more earnestly enforced.

- John Calvin

1. What are children called to do?

- Who is he talking to?

- What does obedience look like?

- Are there limits to obedience?

2. Why are children called to do it?

- What is the natural response?

- What is the promise?

- What is the motivation?

Family Application Questions

 While we are all children of someone, there is some distinction as to how we are to respond to parents. What are some differences between the call to obey and the call to honor? What are some indications that the call on a child has moved from the call to continually obey to the ongoing call to honor?

2. Are there specific times in this last week that you can think of where you have not honored authority in your life? It might be in the home, at school, or even in the workplace. If there is, are you willing to confess your failure and ask for forgiveness? What steps can you take to help you move toward obedience in that relationship?

3. Children- What are some areas where it is difficult for you to obey? What makes those things difficult? Can you think of any steps that you can take that will help you move out of sinful habits and into habits of obedience? 4. Parents- How can we model the joys of obedience to our children? Are there ways that we present obedience to God as a duty that we carry out under obligation rather than something that we pursue with joy? Are there times in our lives that we can point to that show how obedience is rewarded, even if that obedience did not result in physical or financial gain?

5. For those who do not have children- Do you actively pray for the children and families in our congregation? It can be easy to complain about the shortcomings of kids, but it is far more beneficial to pray diligently for those families in the midst of raising them. How can you practically encourage a family raising their kids this week? How can you practically show honor to your parents this week?