

How Jesus Transforms a Family

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God's word teaches that both kids and parents have responsibilities toward one another. Teenagers, historically, haven't been the best at obeying their parents. It's a time in life when teens' bodies and minds are changing, and parents begin to look less and less wise and more and more easy to outwit. But that doesn't change the fact that God's heart is for kids to obey their parents while they're living under their roof, and parents are supposed to be providing a loving, godly household for kids to live in. So how can families let Jesus transform them?

Kids Should Obey Their Parents Because It Makes God Happy

Kids obey their parents for lots of reasons. Maybe they want to get their allowance money, or they just want a pat on the head? Or it could be that they want to avoid punishment. But God's word teaches that Christian kids should obey for an even more important reason:

| **Colossians 3:20** Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.

When children obey their parents, it pleases God. But even more, having this perspective of honoring God with our actions will carry us forward through the challenges of growing up. College, for example, presents a lot of challenges for young Christians, and if we only ever did the "right thing" because we were avoiding punishment from our parents, the moment we're away from them, we no longer have any motivation to do what's right.

Parents Should Treat Kids Right So They Don't Push Them Away from Christ

Parents can be at church seven days a week and still end up raising kids who have no interest in following Jesus.

| **Colossians 3:21** Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.

Trying to force your kids into compliance by nagging them, saddling them with harsh expectations, and dropping the hammer at the slightest infraction not only goes against God's word, but it is a quick way to create division in your relationship and to cause your kids to rebel against God as a side-effect of rebelling against you.

The Most Important Thing an Imperfect Family Can Do Is to Pray for Each Other

No family is perfect, and that means all families should be praying for each other. Parents can influence their kids and set a great example, but when the buck stops, everyone has to choose to follow God for themselves. Parents should set great examples, but they also need to be in

prayer for their kids, giving them over to God and trusting that God the Holy Spirit will do what he does best – redeem us and guide us to become the people he’s creating us to be.

Article for this topic by Daniel Martin.

Talk About It

1. *What is your initial reaction to this topic? What jumped out at you?*
2. *List some qualities of a child that every parent would love to raise.*
3. *How you ever thought about what makes God happy? Explain.*
4. *Why do you think families are such a big deal to God?*
5. *Why do you think it is important for children to obey their parents?*
6. *What happens in families where children don’t follow the directions of their parents?*
7. *Read Psalm 127:3 and share what you think about this verse.*
8. *List some qualities of a really good parent. Explain*
9. *What is or was or could be you toughest challenge as a parent?*
10. *Read Colossians 3:21 and share some times when you blew it as a parent.*
11. *What area could you work on as a parent-giving your children more time, encouraging them more or spiritually mentoring them?*
12. *Write a personal action step based on this conversation.*