

DIVINE INSTITUTION NUMBER THREE: FAMILY
THE RESPONSIBILITY OF CHILDREN

1. Toward God.
 - A. Children are responsible to make a decision regarding salvation. God desires you.
 - B. It is only after you have made this decision, and only you are responsible for that decision, that you can truly be a "Wise Son" or daughter.
 1. Proverbs 1:7, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction."
 - C. The believing child is responsible for his relationship with the Lord.
 1. Learn the Word of God.
 2. Use the promises from the Word for your life.
 - a. Deuteronomy 24:16, restoration to fellowship.
 - b. Proverbs 1:7, faith in the promises of God.
 - c. Ephesians 4:16, grow as quickly as possible.

2. Toward Parents.
 - A. Rebellion against parental authority is sin. Sin with holds good things from you.
 1. Jeremiah 5:25, "Your iniquities have turned away these things, and your sins have withholden good things from you."
 2. Proverbs 30:13, "There is a generation, O how lofty are their eyes! and their eyelids are lifted up."
 - B. Rebellion against parental authority may ultimately result in violent death.
 1. Proverbs 30:17, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it."
 2. Matthew 15:4, "For God commanded, saying, Honour thy father and mother: and, He that curseth father or mother, let him die the death."
 - C. A child is commanded by God to obey his parents, as a minor and to honor them for life.
 1. Exodus 20:12, "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee".
 2. Colossians 3:20, "Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord."
 3. Deuteronomy 5:16, "Honour thy father and thy mother, as the Lord thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."
 4. Ephesians 6:2, "Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."
 5. To "honour" is to respect their better judgment, their instructions, their advice and their rules. So think highly of them. Respect.
 - D. Honoring is for the duration of the child's life, obeying is not.
 - E. Children should understand their responsibility toward God and their parents and perform it. The whole thing is called appreciation.
 - F. Children with believing parents should be thankful for them, and respond with helpfulness and cooperation. They should realize how valuable this Christian heritage and training is.
 - G. Children are to obey their parents, believer or unbeliever, even if you think they are unwise. This is their responsibility. Trust the Lord to direct you and let Him show your parents that they have been unwise.

1. Proverbs 3:5, 6, "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall bring it to pass."
- H. Heed parental instruction, listen and do.
 1. Proverbs 1:8, "My son, hear the instruction of thy father, and forsake not the law of thy mother."
 2. Proverbs 23:12, "Apply thine heart unto instruction, and thine ears to the words of knowledge."
- I. Children must provide for the aged and needy parents.
 1. 1 Timothy 5:4, "But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God."

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