

**Grace-Based Parenting**

Ephesians 6:1-4
Pastor John Sloan

Introduction: Parenting is a humbling enterprise. There's always so much more to learn and so many areas in which to fail. There are hundreds of books written on parenting, and yet the New Testament only offers two direct commands for parents ... leaving us often bewildered. It would be easier if children were more inclined to obey. Maybe they struggle for the same reasons we do: they need better motivation.

The Reasons to Obey

01.

02.

03.



1. What is significant about the phrase "in the Lord" (v.1)? Why is it so important?
2. Whom does Paul specifically address in v. 1? What does that tell us?
3. Is your parenting (or *grandparenting*) more law-based or gospel-based? How can you tell?
4. Paul says that for obedient children things will "go well" and they will "live long in the land" (v.3). How do we make sense of such a promise when we seem to see exceptions all around us?
5. Is there anything a believer can do to make God love him or her less? How about more? Please explain your answer.
6. Martin Luther wrote: "The law says 'do this' and it is never done. Grace says, 'believe in this' and everything is already done." What do you think he meant? Do you agree?

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[A Study Through
Ephesians]

01. We obey because of who
we are (IDENTITY).

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“The law says ‘do this’ and it is never done. Grace says, ‘believe in this’ and everything is already done.” Martin Luther

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02. We obey because God
has spoken (OBLIGATION).

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“You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth

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generation of those who hate me,
but showing steadfast love to
thousands of those who love me
and keep my commandments.”

Exodus 20:5-6

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03. We obey because of the
promised benefit to us
(REWARD).

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“To say ‘I don’t do anything for the reward - I do it only because it’s right,’ may appear to take the spiritual high ground. But, in fact, it’s pseudo spiritual. Saying that there’s only one good reason

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to do something denies the other ways
God himself uses to motivate us. It
contradicts all the passages of Scripture
that unmistakably attempt to motivate
us by our desire for rewards.” Randy Alcorn

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“It is no more erroneous or inconsistent to affirm that the future reward will be bestowed upon the Christian both for Christ’s sake and because of his own obedience,

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than it is to say that our present peace and joy flow directly from the mediation of Christ, and subordinately yet truly so from our own obedience and fidelity.”

A.W. Pink

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