

Colossians 3:20

Children, obey your parents in everything for this pleases the LORD.

LITTLE TWIGS: In our weekly gatherings we engage in teaching God's truth and responding through singing, collective prayer and liturgical readings. We believe it is important for our children to see, hear, and experience God's Word and His people responding in worship. In this way we corporately seek to raise children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord (Eph 6:4), so children remain in worship and teaching with the adults.

Here are a few ideas to engage your little ones in the service today:

- Each week sermon passages are listed in the handout; before church on Sunday read the Scripture being taught out loud as a family and pick out key words in the passage.
- Have your children listen and - pat your arm, make a mark, draw a circle, or count the number of times those key words come up in the sermon.
- Incentivize success with rewards or snacks
- Pick up a "Little Twigs" plastic tote in the entry way before church.
- Ask your little one to draw a picture of the things they are hearing in the sermon.
- Have your child help with offering.
- After church take your child to "Little Twigs" where they hear a summary of the sermon, ask them what they learned.

March 23, 2025

Today's Order of Service:

- Call to Worship: Colossians 3:20
- The Steadfast Love of the LORD
- Reading: The Word Made Flesh
- O Great God

Teaching: Eph 6:1-3, "Kingdom Minded Children"

- Collection of Tithes and Offerings
- Solid Rock
- All I have is Christ
- His Mercy is More
- Doxology: Old 100th

Upcoming Sermon Topics and Events: (also see website)

March 23 – King of My Family; Children: Ephesians 6:1-3

March 30 – The King Ressurrected; Mark 15:1-6

April 6 – The King Ressurrected; Mark 15:16-32

April 13 – The King Ressurrected; Mark 15:33-47

April 20 – **Ressurrection Sunday**; Mark 16:1-20

GROWTH GROUPS: Started Wednesday night Feb 19th, if you are not in one and would like to be please see Robb.

THE WORKSHOP: Men's Bible Study. Meet's the FIRST Sunday morning of every month at 7:30 a.m. Meeting location: 4H Fair Grounds, Church Building. Next Meeting: April 6th, 7:30am.

LIVE STREAMING: If you cannot attend in person, you can join us by clicking the button on our home page at

vineandbranch.family

EMAIL LIST: If you attend regularly and want to be kept updated on church information and events provide your email to Ian Smith; lansmith@ianlabs.com.

MISSIONARIES and MINISTRIES:

Rajan & Helen Nehemiah

Agape Christian Mission – India; Agapemissionindia.org

John & Brittany Bagatya

YWAM Hopeland Base, Uganda; Bagatya.wordpress.com

40 Days for Life: 40daysforlife.com

Please check out <https://vineandbranch.family/> for a more detailed calendar of events, weekly sermon series and study passages, and to access previous sermons on both our website and Spotify.

MAIN POINT: Kingdom minded children who live in-line with God's design by obeying and honoring their parents; **honor God, strengthen their family, invite blessing, and build the Kingdom.**

Notice a couple things right from the start:

1. **"Children"** God presents **children as valuable to the LORD and His Kingdom as present contributors;**
2. **"Obey"** there is a shift in wording; **"submission"** (v. 21, 22, 24), now the word used toward children is **"obey."**
 - **Submission** = Suggests having developed ideas or understanding yet **yielding** or **surrendering** to those over you.
 - **Obedience** = Following orders or rules, focusing on action even if ideas or opinions are not yet formed or understood.
3. **"Honor"** expands the understanding of obedience – it carries obedience further = **respect, value, and care.** Obedience is tied to a specific life stage, while **honoring** is a **lifelong duty**

Children: obey your parents without **delay**, without **debate**, without **display**.

The phrase **"in the LORD"** qualifies two important things:

- **Direction:** Obedience to your parents by faith IS obeying/honoring the LORD and invokes blessing.
- **Protection:** Obedience is framed by alignment with the Lord's teachings and righteousness. If were to ask a child to sin: lie, steal, or harm someone), the child would not be obligated to obey in that instance.

Learning to obey and honor, will **set you up for good, and to do good to others.**

- **Negatively stated:** If you **disobey** and **dishonor** your parents, **life is going to be very hard for you.**
- **Positively stated:** **Obeying** and **honoring** your parents, will bring blessing, goodness, and flourishing in your life. (Ex20:12, Duet 5:16)

Adult Children: **honoring** suggests a **distinction** and **continuation**.

- Obedience, once an adult child establishes independence; *leaving and cleaving*, forming their own household; living apart, and living financially self-sufficient... then expectation of **strict obedience** to parents diminishes.
- **HONORING your parents is a life-long responsibility** and also carries with it the promise of blessing. (Mark 3:20-35, John 19:26-27)

Honor = **"to give weight"** or **"to esteem"** – HONOR resolves to **exalt** the positive aspects of **your parents** and their role and **give grace** to their weaknesses.

When we obey and honor our parents **"In the LORD"** God unleashes all the blessings of his first commandment

APPLICATION:

Parents:

1. Teach your children to **OBEY** without **delay**, without **debate**, without **display**, and **without exasperating them**,
2. Keep the core principles developed in Ephesians as foundation for your parenting: Christ at the center, Grace permeated, Adjusting heart and behavior
3. **This is THE JOB of Kingdom Minded Parents to focus our full attention.** You could do no better in helping your children on their way to flourishing, stability, and the blessing of God!

Young Children:

1. Obey your parents without **delay**, without **debate**, without **display**
2. This is the clear unmistakable way you build God's Kingdom
3. Enjoy stability, blessing, and flourishing.

Adult Children:

1. Resolve to **exalt** the positive aspects of your parents and **give grace** to their weaknesses
2. Seek & Value the wisdom of your parents
3. Prioritize the joyful, physical, and relational support of your parents. 1 Timothy 5:8