

STUDY NOTES

BLUEPRINTS FOR LIFE

a series at New City Church

www.newcityphx.com/sermons

The following content is based on the message "Christ-Centered Parenting" on 8/19/18 at New City Church in Phoenix, AZ. The following is not meant to be a full synopsis but rather a brief look at the main ideas. To use this Study Guide effectively you must listen to the message found at <http://newcityphx.com/sermons/>.

Leaders using these study notes for group study and reflection should read the Biblical text thoroughly before beginning, using this resource as assistance and not relying solely on this material for insight. We encourage all leaders to pray and ask the Spirit for revelation as they lead their respective community groups.

PRAYER

Pray and ask God to lead the discussion as everyone gets to share.

SCRIPTURE: EPHESIANS 6:1-4

COUNTER-CULTURAL LIVING

Paul subverts culture with his instruction to children. They would not have been addressed like this at the time of writing. In fact, Paul is treating everyone in the home with dignity. The reason he does this is because of a foundational principle for relationships that we should use as Christian.

My actions are determined by my relationship with Christ, and not by the standing or performance of others.

- *Why should this principle be foundational to your relationships? If you are a parent, why is this principle so important?*

OBEY AND HONOR

He instructs children to obey their parents and to honor them. To obey means "to do what they say". To honor is a commercial term, meaning "to give proper weight to something".

- *As adults, you don't obey your parents anymore, but how can you still honor them?*

TWO MODERN SHIFTS

There are two modern shifts in parenting. The first one is that the parent-centered nuclear family is becoming more children-centered. Parents are acting more and more like a child's peer.

- *Why do you think it is dangerous to have a children-centered family?*
- *What can parents provide that peers cannot?*
- *What good has unlimited empowerment done to children?*
- *What harm has unlimited empowerment done to children?*

The second shift is the effect of technology. People are able to demand what they want with themselves at the center. Life has become about getting what I want and I need now.

- *How do you see technology changing parenting?*

HOW DO WE PARENT?

Paul addresses the mothers and fathers and tells them that they need conduct themselves in a way that is worthy of respect and demands respect by their actions!

- 1) **Encourage them.**
- 2) **Be present with them.**
- 3) **Pray for them.**
- 4) **Repent and confess in front of them.**
- 5) **Be in the word.**

- *What is the difference between not giving children just what they want and provoking children to anger?*
- *What was your experience with your parents repenting?*
- *We all need to work on these, but which one do need to work on the most as a parent? (If you are not a parent, which one do you need to better in your close relationships?)*
- *Pray for parents within our community, our church, and our city.*