

Children

Children can get along better with their parents if they obey the command of Eph 6:1-3: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ‘Honor your father and mother,’ which is the first commandment with promise: ‘that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.’”

In addition to the commands, there is a promise.

“That it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.” One has every reason to believe that if children obey and honor their parents, they will have a longer and happier life. When I was a child, my parents had some definite *do’s* and *don’ts*. Parents, try teaching these *do’s* and *don’ts* to your children. Children try these *do’s* and *don’ts* in obeying and honoring your parents?

Do

- Go to every service of the church.
- Sit where your parents can see you.
- Bring your friends home so your parents can meet them.
- Go where you tell parents you are going.
- Be home at the time you say you are going to be there.
- Clean your own room and pickup your own things.
- Help your mom take care of younger brothers and sisters.
- Be a happy camper when you are doing your chores around the house.
- Treat older people with respect.
- Study your Bible lessons.
- Tell the truth.

Don’ts

- Don’t sass or talk back to your parents.
- Don’t use slang or vulgar language.
- Don’t be hateful or abusive to others.
- Don’t pout when you are corrected or cannot have your way.
- Don’t talk and misbehave in church.
- Don’t misbehave at school or in the neighborhood.
- Don’t run with kids who do bad things.
- Don’t start drugs and you won’t have to stop.
- Don’t leave a mess for others to clean up.
- Don’t talk family business outside the family unless you are not treated *in the Lord*. For example, if you or some other family member is being abused, you must tell.

Do unto each of your parents as you would have them do unto you.

The end of it all is to practice the golden rule (Mt 7:12) with your parents, brothers, and sisters. Remember that if you obey and honor your parents, you will live a long and happy life. On the other hand, if you go out and about carelessly regarding others and recklessly carrying on, you are sure to come into great and dangerous trouble.

Study questions.

1. What is the one condition on obeying parents? _____
2. What is the first commandment with promise? _____
3. What exactly is promised? _____
4. What are your top three *do’s*—the ones that will help you most in your life? _____

5. What are your top three *don'ts*—the ones that will help you most in your life? _____

6. When must a family member talk family business outside the home? _____

7. How does the golden rule apply to you and your parents or to you and your children? _____

8. What will lead you to great trouble in your life? _____

9. What will lead you to a long and happy life? _____

10. Write out the Eph 6:1-3. Can you write it from memory? _____
