

Grace Valley Bible Church  
PT: Ron Adema  
Study: Book of Colossians

Date: 3/ 24/26  
Text: **Col.3:20-21**  
File: Tuesday

### **Lesson: DIVINE INSTITUTION OF FAMILY**

We are currently studying three of the five divine institutions listed in Col.3:18-4:1.

Today we will study SIX aspects of the Divine Institution of Family.

1. Once again Paul outlined the chain of command for the Divine Institution (DI) of Family.

Note: Paul will address the subordinate (children) before the position of authority (parents and the fathers).

Divine chain of command is outlined in 1 Cor.11:3 – “But I want you to understand that **Christ is the head of every man**, and the **man is the head of the woman**, and **God is the head of Christ.**”

Chain of command from top to bottom of family: **God to Christ to parents/ father to children.**  
*This chain of command is the same in Eph.6:1-4.*

2. Children are listed and instructed before parents and fathers in Col.3:20-21.

A command is given to Children, “Be obedient (hupakouo/ p.a.impv.2pl) to your parents IN ALL THINGS (why?), for this is (eimi/ p.a.ind) well-pleasing to the Lord.”

**Be obedient** (hupakouo) means to hear, understand and obey. This is important to get **the faith cycle** working (hearing (understanding), believing, applying, and completing).

**Note** this is in response to the PARENTS (tois goneus).

**Note** the Greek word for children is **teknon**. Today, American would group teknon as middle school – high school (age-appropriate behavior to command).

3. Paul wrote on this same subject in Eph.6:1-4. Children are addressed first again (6:1-3). In fact, Paul does this with all DIs- subordinate first and then authority.

Children are commanded to **obey** parents just like in Col.3:20. Note special instructions of Eph.6:1-4.

- Note, they are commanded to **honor** (timaō/ p.a.impv.2pl) their father and mother.
- Note, it is the **First Commandment with a promise** (Eph.6:2).

- Note, the promise is in Eph.6:3. It is quoted from **Deut.5:16 (Ex.20:12/ Ten Commandment)**.  
**“So that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.”**

4. Parents and fathers are mentioned in the position of divine authority in Col.3:21 and Eph.6:4. Col.3:20 mentions **parents** (tois goneus) and 3:21 fathers (hoi pater/ v.pl. male).

**Fathers** emphasize the important of honorable male role modeling by Christian father who understand God is their Father role model just as He was for Jesus Christ.

**“Do not exasperate your children** (me erethizo/ p.a.impv.2pl/ command).” Erethizo means to anger, provoke, or stir up/ negative). It shows up during middle school and high school. Fathers need to bond earlier before children reach teknon stage.

The reason is **“that they may not lose heart (me athumeo/ p.a.subj 3p/ discourage, dispirited, disheartened/ inward feeling of indignation/ Gal.5:19-23/ short fuse, quick outbursts of anger/ thumeo/ 5:20/ flesh/ Gal.5:16).”**

5. Pay special attention to Eph.6:1-4 and instructions to Christian families.

**Fathers: Eph.6:4** adds, *“But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”*

**Parents: Eph.6:1-3** adds, **“Children honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), so that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth.”**

*My desire is to live an active life until 120 years of age. Some ask WHERE I get it. This is my passage of Scriptures (Ex.20:12; Deut.5:16) plus the lives of Moses and Caleb.*

Without these Scriptures I would accept Ps.90:10 (70-80 years). I also view my life by four quarters. When I turn 90, I will enter my **4<sup>th</sup> quarter of my life ministry.**

6. A Christian **in a family** is an important missionary for God (1 Cor.7:1-16). This establishes an important ministry opportunity within the Christian Family.

*“The unbelieving **husband** is sanctified through his **wife**, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified through her believing husband; for otherwise your **children** are unclean, but now they are holy.”*  
 (1 Cor.7:14)

**“For how do you know, O wife, whether you will save your husband? Or how do you know, O husband, whether you will save your wife?”** (1 Cor.7:16)