

February 1, 2017
“Relationship Building with Children”
Colossians 3:20-21
David Self

I. Children “*Children, obey your parents in everything for this is pleases the Lord*” (20)
(Eph. 6:1-2)

A. Children are to honor (Ex. 20:12) Children need acceptance, protection and praise.

B. Children are to heed (Prov. 22:6)

C. Children are to help (Deut. 6)

1) **Give** children the power of decision and praise.

2) **Make** them responsible for their allowance.

3) **Teach** them future values.

4) **Allow** them room to splurge.

5) **Respect** their independence.

6) **Share** family financial goals.

7) **Teach** them to give to God.

II. Parents “*Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won’t become discouraged.*”

(21) William Barclay gives historical background of the culture to which Paul wrote: “There was the Roman *patria potestas*, the father’s power. Under the *patria potestas* a Roman father had absolute power over his family. He could sell them as slaves, he could make them work in his fields even in chains, he could punish as he liked and could even inflict the death penalty...”

Further, the power of the Roman father extended over the child's whole life, so long as the father lived. A Roman son never came of age. Even when he was a grown man, even if he were a magistrate of the city, even if the state had crowned him with well-deserved honors, he remained within his father's absolute power." (**The Letters to the Galatians and Ephesians**, p. 175) The Roman custom of exposure to the elements for unwanted young infants is well known. Barclay concludes, "If the Christian faith did much for women, it did even more for children." (Barclay, p. 175) Modern day parents should interpret "discouraged" children as a warning light on the dashboard of life.

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