

3:20 **Christian children must soberly obey Christ's commandment for them to obey their parents.**

1. There is no age limitation in this verse or any other; if you have parents, then you are a child.
2. There is no age limitation on this commandment, if a father wants to correct his married son!
3. Abraham picked Isaac's wife, Rebekah, for him, when he was forty (Genesis 24:1-67; 25:20).
4. Jonadab's descendants kept his extra-Scriptural commandment for generations (Jer 35:18-19).
5. When God takes one sentence to address children, the emphasis is on obedience to parents; it is not getting good grades, graduating from high school, going to college, having lots of fun, making lots of friends, playing sports, picking the perfect career, or loving brother and sister.
6. It doesn't say, "Children, connect with your parents," or "Children, be cool with your parents."
7. Obey means to submit to the authority of another and to comply and perform their requests. Children, it means to do what your parents tell you to do, even if you don't want to do it!
8. The first authority relationship we meet with in life is our parents, and we better learn to obey, for it will affect every other relationship you will have for the rest of your life.
9. The parent-child relationship first needs submission, then it needs a father's love and training.
10. It does not matter what this permissive, rebellious, effeminate society thinks about the matter.
11. Benjamin Spock was a dysfunctional humanist, with family drugs, divorce, and suicide.
12. Your parents were chosen by the infinite wisdom and total sovereignty of the Creator God: He did not ask you or them about the relationship – He simply gave you to each other (Is 45:9-10).
13. The extent of this obedience is plainly stated – all things: the only exceptions to it must be sin.
14. Children must obey regarding wall sockets, knives, eating, friends, school, music, television, Internet, driving, dating, working, saving money, debt repayment, marriage, child training, etc.
15. The reason for this obedience is also plainly stated – it is well pleasing unto the Lord. Glory!
16. Here is an opportunity for a child to do something that wins the pleasure of the most high God.
17. Now we should read the twin passage, where Paul expands this commandment (Eph 6:1-3).
18. In this place is added "in the Lord," which is a prepositional phrase modifying obedience, not parents. This is not a limitation to obey only Christian parents; this is obedience as to the Lord.
19. Paul then resurrects the commandment to honor parents, which is the first with great rewards!
20. A promise is attached – long and good life, which is more healthful than *Prevention* and GNC.
21. After simple submission and obedience, then there is honor you owe them for their position.
22. Honoring parents is much broader than obeying them, and it further obligates us toward them.
23. Honoring parents is one of the exalted Ten Commandments (Ex 20:12; Deuteronomy 5:16).
24. Honoring parents includes the same language by which we are to honor God – fear (Lev 19:3).
25. If we are to rise up before the hoary head, how much more when worn by a parent (Lev 19:32).
26. It is impossible to obey your parents and yet not honor them, but it would be very difficult to honor them and yet disobey them. Obedience is a subset of honoring them. Grasp all of this!
27. How important is it? There is a God in heaven, Who hates rebellious and disobedient children.
28. When God writes the laws, disobedient children are put to death (Exodus 21:15,17; Leviticus 20:9; Deuteronomy 21:18-21; 27:16; Proverbs 20:20; 30:17; Ezekiel 22:7; Matthew 15:4).
29. Honoring parents is an article of our faith and something infidels even know to do; and it is to be charged upon the Lord's people so that they might be blameless (I Timothy 5:4,8).
30. Child, your parents lived your life before you! At the time of your birth, they had twice the wisdom you have now. And they kept learning, while you were having your diapers changed!
31. God is always on the side of parents, and you will be judged for disobedience (Num 32:23).
32. No parent is perfect, and it does not matter. God demands respect (II Pet 2:10-12; Jude 1:8-10).
33. If you give your father (or mother) difficulty, may the angel of the Lord chase you (Ps 35:5-6).
34. What wisdom! If children obeyed as here, and fathers obeyed what is next, utopia is possible!
35. Is there anything your parents want you to do, but they have practically given up requesting it?
36. Frustration and pain you cause your parents will return on your head with interest (Gal 6:7).
37. Honoring parents includes in-laws and stepparents by the relationship and Moses (Ex 18:1-27).

38. People prepared for the Lord restore relationships of father and children (Mal 4:6; Luke 1:17).
39. There is a generation, or kind of character, that does not bless their parents (Proverbs 30:11).
40. But we live in a generation that is generally known for disobedience to parents (II Tim 3:2).
41. The reprobate mind with which God judged our nation includes child rebellion (Romans 1:30).
42. We are to remember this commandment even to the time of senility of our mother (Pr 23:22).
43. A child robbing parents is companion to a destroyer, a murderer, and will be judged (Pr 28:24).
44. Wicked Jews of Jesus' day quit parental support by willing assets to the temple (Matt 15:1-9).
45. Fathers are mocked and ridiculed in all levels of our culture as ignorant, foolish, and weak.
46. Malachi and Paul assumed that children are to reverence fathers (Malachi 1:6; Hebrews 12:9).
47. Let every saint keep the commandment, please the Lord, secure a long life, and set an example.
48. We can contend with this rebellious generation and commend the gospel of Christ this simply!

For further study:

1. Benjamin Spock: <http://www.vision.org/jrnl/0006/bvbspock.html>