

C. Family

Plunkett, Robert L. "Vow for Now." National Review. 29 May, 1995, pp. 48-54 passim. Parents are assigned absolute authority over their children.

Colossians 3:20 - Children, obey your parents in all things, because this pleases the Lord.

This verse begins with the vocative of address from the noun *teknon*. This is correctly translated "children" and refers to the descendants of parents, either sons or daughters.

Following this designation of who is being addressed is the present active imperative of positive command from the verb *hupakouo*. This word means to willingly submit to those who are in duly appointed positions of authority over you, in this case, parents. The word for parents is the dative masculine plural from the noun *goneus*.

Please note, that the plural word for "parents" is in the masculine gender thus again indicating the table of organization for the family: the father is the head of the household and makes policy. The mother however, being submissive to the husband's authority, agrees to uphold his policies. The dative case indicates that the child's submission to both is for his own personal advantage.

Now to what degree are children commanded by God to submit to their parents? This is made clear in the prepositional phrase which comes next: *kata panta*: "in all things."

Any policy the parents make is to be obeyed by their children. There is no loophole to cover cases where the parents' policy may be wrong, unfair, unjust, or imposes undeserved hardship.

Observation: We live in a crooked, perverse, and contorted generation. The reason is because we as a people have refused to maintain the system of order which results from observing the laws of divine establishment. Whenever this system is ignored, miscarriages of justice result. Many people suffer unfairly and this suffering takes on both mental as well as physical proportions. The reason God invented the laws of divine establishment is because the human species cannot exist in an orderly manner without them. When nations choose to circumvent order, chaos results and many suffer. The answer is not to destroy the system of authority which God has provided but to return to its precepts. Children suffer in times of disorder and chaos. But safe havens for children can never be created outside the system which God has established. There is nothing that can be done to solve the crises of child abuse and neglect in a nation whose *Zeitgeist* is crooked, perverse, and contorted. The solution will take at least a full generation to correct and then only if the citizens collectively respond to the divine administration of the early cycles of national discipline. The contorted souls of children who are abused under the contorted authority structure of a dysfunctional home is only one of many horrifying characteristics of a degenerate society. During such a period, honorable parents must be able to maintain order within their household if their children are to survive in such an environment. Therefore, the principle stands: parents must be obeyed in all things!

God is in His heaven and controls history. He has delegated authority down to parents over children. If children submit then they are protected under God's umbrella of authority. If the parents are unfair and unjust, God will take corrective steps but the child may not revolt. If the child revolts, he removes himself from God's protection and falls under the uncertain ebb and flow of a chaotic culture. Such an environment will not protect the child, provide for the child, or love the child. Instead, an expedient government will only use the child for its own contorted motives. Therefore, I repeat point 8:

Any policy the parents make is to be obeyed by their children. There is no loophole to cover cases where the parents' policy may be wrong, unfair, unjust, or imposes undeserved hardship.

There is next stated a motivation for children to submit to their parents' authority. It is introduced by the causal conjunction gar, translated, "because," or "for."

Then the cause is given for such submission: "it is acceptable to the Lord." It is the Lord's desire that children submit to the authority of their parents. When they do so, the Lord finds it acceptable.

When children do not submit but instead revolt, the Lord finds that to be unacceptable and discipline is imposed.

From this verse we can conclude that in the family, parents have the authority and they may make and enforce any policy they deem necessary in the raising of the child and in establishing order within the household.