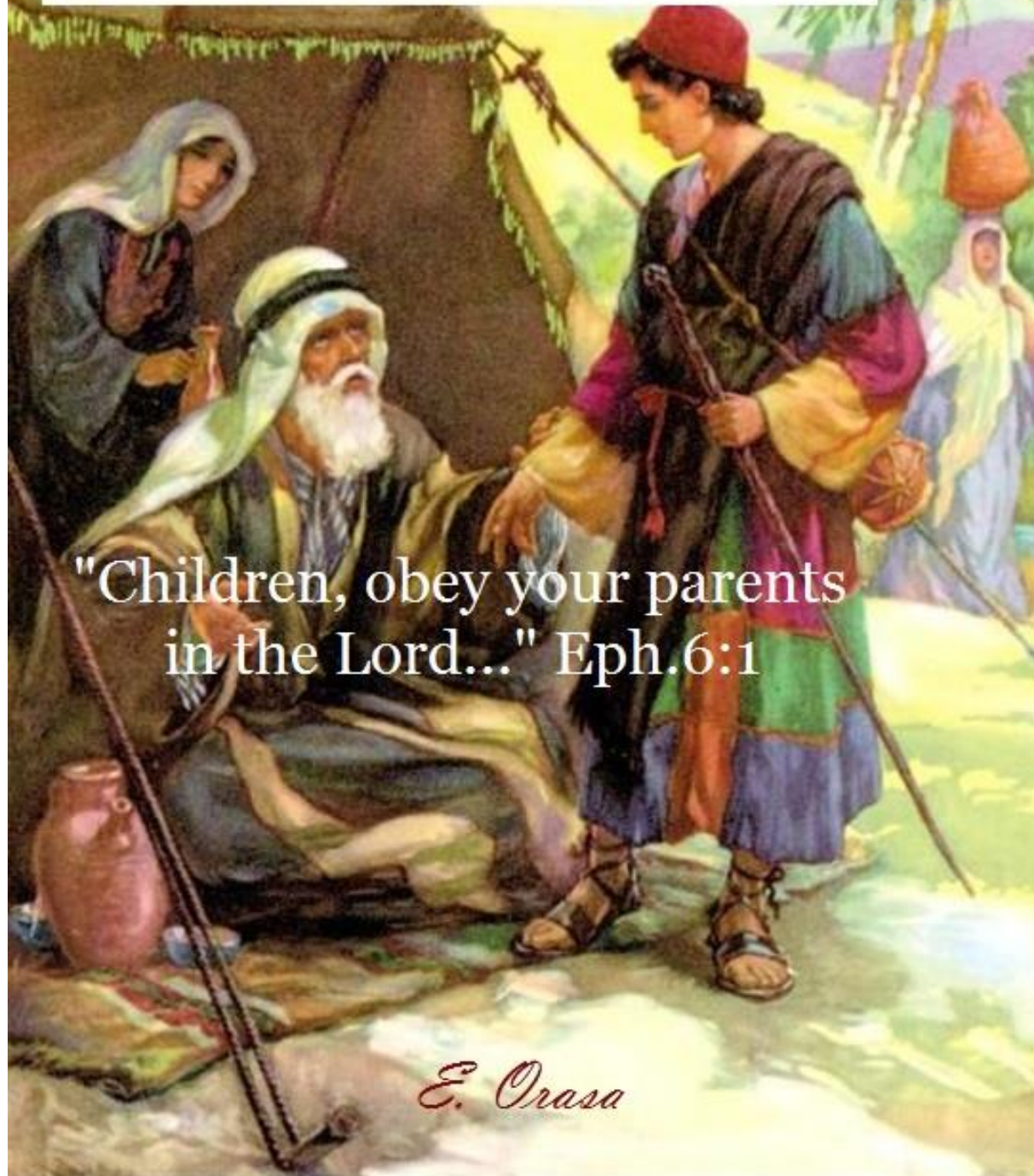


Parent in the Lord

"Children, obey your parents
in the Lord..." Eph.6:1

E. Orasa



Parents in the Lord

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.”

Eph. 6:1

Not all parents were blessed with posterity, and not all children were blessed with a father and mother who are already in the Lord, who knows His word and obeys Him for the cause of bringing them in the paths of righteousness. Are you a parent who represents the Lord in leading your family?

Most bible searchers are using this verse just to back up the claims of teaching the responsibility of children and only few would touch on the responsibility of parents, not just a parent but one in the Lord. What it means to be a parent in the Lord? Is there any difference being a parent of this world and a parent in the Lord?

As I meditated on this verse, I came across an acronym to remind me of my responsibility as a parent. This is what Paul has done to those he considered as sons in the faith though not sons in the flesh (1 Co.4:17; Php.2:22; 1 Tim.1:2,18; 2 Tim.1:2; Tit.1:4).

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|--------------|---------------|
| Pastoring- | Guiding) |
| Aiming- | Goal setting) |
| Reproving- | Guarding) |
| Encouraging- | Giving hope) |
| Nurturing- | Growing) |
| Training- | Grooming) |
| Sending- | Going |

PASTORING-

A parent in the Lord serves as a pastor to his/her children. This may not be on a ministerial claim like what is being said of a pastor, but I only meant the responsibility of **guiding**. They serve as the overseer on what is happening to their children and what they will do. If there is something that they need to provide, it is not just their material needs but their ways and means on leading them to the things that the Lord requires. His priority is focused in following the Bishop of our soul (1 Pet.2:25). The role of a parent is like unto a pastor in ruling well his own house. If it pertains to children, they must be obedient and unto subjection, it is with all gravity (1 Tim.3:1,4) though most of the laws in this world concerning children disagree to it.

I also believe that this is not a thing solely for man, but also for women if guiding children, or guiding somebody in the faith, is concerned (1 Tim.5:10,14). This is just what I understood on parenting, the reason a mother is also considered a parent.

“Well reported of for good works; if **she have brought up children**, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”^{1Tim.5:10}

“I will therefore that **the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house**, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”^{1Tim.5:14}

We can also consider the examples of Eunice and Lois.

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother children; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”^{2Tim.1:5}

AIMING

A parent in the Lord takes his children to task. They are not only there for their guiding but in leading them to their goals. The parents of this world only goal for their children’s studies, career and families in the future, but a parent in the Lord longs for the one which is heavenly.

“While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen *are* temporal; but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.”^{2Co.4:18}

This is concerning their **goal setting**.

“This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare; Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:”^{1 Tim.1:18-19}

They give their children charge in order for them to learn responsibility. It is very difficult if a parent will teach his children dependence on them. And In order to teach independence, at least assigning task would help. It is important that a parent in the Lord makes follow up if things were learned and carried out or accomplished.

“Behold, **the third time I am ready to come to you**; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved. But be it so, I did not burden you: nevertheless, being crafty, I caught you with guile. Did I make a gain of you by any of them whom I sent unto you? I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? *walked we* not in the same steps? Again, think ye that we excuse ourselves unto you? we speak before God in Christ: but *we do* all things, dearly beloved, for your edifying. ^{“2 Co.12:14-19}

REPROVING

A parent in the Lord does not hesitate to warn, rebuke and reprove his children in the course that they misbehaved in accomplishing their task. This is for their **guarding** and also for their protection. They will be protected from committing the same mistakes again and again.

“I write not these things to shame you, **but as my beloved sons I warn you**. For though ye have ten thousand instructors in Christ, yet *have ye* not many fathers: for in Christ Jesus I have begotten you through the gospel. Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me. ^{”1 Co.4:14-16}

“Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: **ye have not injured me at all.** Ye know how through infirmity of the flesh I preached the gospel unto you at the first. And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, *even* as Christ Jesus. Where is then the blessedness ye spake of? for I bear you record, that, if *it had been* possible, ye would have plucked out your own eyes, and have given them to me. **Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?** They zealously affect you, *but* not well; yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But *it is* good to be zealously affected always in *a good thing*, and not only when I am present with you. **My little children**, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you.”^{Gal.4:12-20}

A rebuke and a discipline are also needed.

“And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had **fathers of our flesh which corrected us**, and we gave

them reverence: shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live?"^{Heb.12:5-9}

ENCOURAGING

A parent in the Lord encourages. He **gives hope** when his children were hopeless.

"Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus."^{2 Tim.2:1}

A parent's action should always be encouraging and a little point of causing discouragement is to be avoided.

"But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe: As ye know how we **exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father doth his children,**"^{1 Th.2:7-11}

"Children, obey *your* parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. Fathers, provoke not your children *to anger*, lest they be discouraged."^{Col.3:20-21}

NURTURING

A parent in the Lord is concerned of their **growth**. Like Moses, he was nourished by his parent (Acts 7:20), but nourishment is not just on material things.

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but **bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.**”^{Eph.6:1-4}

Herein we can also see that a parent in the Lord is willing to be spent for his children’s sake.

“Behold, **the third time I am ready to come** to you; and I will not be burdensome to you: for I seek not yours, but you: for the children ought not to lay up for the parents, but the parents for the children. And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you; though the more abundantly I love you, the less I be loved.”^{2 Co.12:14-15}

It is normal for a parent to long for their children’s growth

“O ye Corinthians, our mouth is open unto you, our heart is enlarged. Ye are not straitened in us, but ye are straitened in your own bowels. Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto *my* children,) **be ye also enlarged.**”^{2 Co.6:11-13}

“Brethren, be not children in understanding: howbeit in malice be ye children, but in understanding **be men.**”¹
Co.14:20

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, **unto a perfect man**, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro**, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, *even* Christ:”^{Eph.4:13-15}

“If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, **nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine**, whereunto thou hast attained.”^{1 Tim.4:6}

TRAINING

A parent in the Lord must be concerned of their children’s readiness in doing the work of a grown up. He needs not just to nourish them but to train them. This refers to their **grooming**.

“If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the master’s use, *and* prepared unto every good work.”²
Tim.2:21

Children copy their parents in many things. This is one way of giving training. He serves as a pattern, an example of how they are going to be prepared.

“But ye know the proof of him, that, as a son with the father, he hath served with me in the gospel. Him therefore I hope to send presently, so soon as I shall see how it will go with me.”^{Php.2:22-23}

“Brethren, I beseech you, be as I *am*; for I *am* as ye *are*: ye have not injured me at all.”^{Gal.4:12}

Brought up/train

“Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.”^{1 Tim.5:10}

“But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children: So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us. For ye remember, brethren, our labour and travail: for labouring night and day, because we would not be chargeable unto any of you, we preached unto you the gospel of God. Ye *are* witnesses, and God *also*, **how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe:** As ye know how we exhorted and comforted and charged every one of you, as a father *doth* his children,”^{1 Th.2:7-11}

See them with same walk. This means of his example. As a parent, you have an influence.

*“I desired Titus, and with *him* I sent a brother. Did Titus make a gain of you? walked we not in the same spirit? *walked we not in the same steps?*”^{2 Co.12:18}*

Like how Timothy was motivated

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”^{2 Tim.1:5}

Part of Paul’s training

“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”^{1 Co.13:11}

SENDING

A parent is not content to do the task by himself. The knowledge that he passes on to his children should be tried and be exercised. He must allow his children to do the task with and without supervision. I refer to this as the **going**.

*“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things. Those things, which ye have both*

learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, do:
and the God of peace shall be with you.”^{Php.4:8-9}

“Be ye therefore followers of God, as dear children;”^{Eph.5:1}

To be a follower requires that you are a doer of the work. You are putting into action the learnings that you achieved. Let’s not wait for the time when they become disobedient.

“For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,”^{2 Tim.3:2}

Are you a parent in the Lord or a parent in this world? Do you want to encourage your children? Then, encourage yourself first. If you want them to be faithful, be faithful all the more. Your sons and daughters look up to you. Show them the best that they can learn from you. Guide them to a godly goal. Guard them and give hope. Help them grow to do great things as they go and glorify God.

Scriptures quoted from the KJV.

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