

DADDY (A CHILD'S PLEA)

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

How did you see God working in your family this week?

Background: According to a test developed by Harvard sociologist that has proved to be ninety per cent accurate in determining whether or not a child five to six years old would become delinquent, four factors must be present in the child's life in order to prevent delinquency. They are (1) the father's firm, fair and consistent discipline, (2) the mother's companionship and supervision during the day, (3) the demonstration of the parents' affection for each other and the children, and (4) time spent together in activities where all the family participated. John MacArthur, Ephesians, The MacArthur New Testament Commentary.

HELP ME HEAR. "To obey is to hear under authority." Kenneth Wuest, Wuest's Word Studies, Volume One, page 136. To obey as God commands is pleasing to God. "Since the parents brought the child into the world, and since they have more knowledge and wisdom than the child, it is right that the child obey his parents." Warren Wiersbe, Be Rich, p.150 (**Ephesians 6:1, fn 6:1, 2, Colossians 3:20, I John 5:3, I Timothy 3:4, fn 3:4, 5**) *How is God's Word helpful to you to help your children to obey?*

KEEP ME SAFE. To honor your father and mother is commanded by God for life. Honor and respect for parents lead to honor and respect for others in positions of authority, such as teachers and policemen, and most of all to submission to God's authority. Honor and respect help keep the child's life from the evils of this world. (**Ephesians 6:2, 3, fn 6:1-4, fn 6:3, Exodus 20:12, fn 20:12, Proverbs 3:1, 2, Proverbs 4:10**) *How could you teach your children to honor you?*

LET ME BE WHAT GOD DESIGNED ME TO BE. Discipline should not be harsh and too exacting but should be balanced. Home should be the environment where each child learns to be what God created him to be. It should be a place where he can learn the love of Jesus and develop right attitudes and principles of behavior. (**Ephesians 6:4, fn 6:4, Colossians 3:21, fn 3:20, 21, Proverbs 3:11, 12, fn 3:11, 12, Proverbs 13:24, fn 13:24, Proverbs 22:6, fn 22:6**) *How do you refrain from harsh discipline?*

The Bible was not written for our information only but for our transformation. *How will these verses change you in your walk with God and others, including your family?*

Pray for one another's needs.