

**Contra Mundum**  
Children and Parents  
Ephesians 6:1-4  
June 28, 2015

**I. Wisdom of the world or the eternal wisdom of God?**

- The counsel of the wicked (Psalm 1:1)
- The Bible is sufficient (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
- Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? (1 Corinthians 1:20)

**II. Children (vss.1-3)**

- Obey your parents (v.1; Colossians 3:20).
- Honor your father and mother (v.2).
- Life goes much better, at least spiritually, when we honor our parents (v.3).
- Children, trust the One who created you and knows what is best for you.
- Obeying God and your parents glorifies God and leads to a better life.

**III. Parents (vs.4)**

- Fathers, put off provoking your children to anger (v.4; Colossians 3:21).
- Fathers, put on bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.
  - Teach by example (Deuteronomy 6:5-7).
  - Teach the Bible to your children (Deuteronomy 6:5-7; 2 Timothy 3:14-15).
  - Discipline your children biblically (Proverbs 29:15; 22:15; 13:24).
- Fathers, do not tempt your children to anger, bitterness, and discouragement. Love them, discipline them in love, and instruct them in love by the way you live and by what you teach.

**Suggested Reading:**

*Shepherding a Child's Heart*, by Ted Tripp

*Age of Opportunity: A Biblical Guide to Parenting Teens*, by Paul David Tripp

**Questions/Discovery Points for  
Life Groups/Families**

**Please read Ephesians 6:1-4**

1. What did you find most encouraging, challenging, or convicting from the sermon? Why? How will you apply this?
2. Do you really believe the Bible is sufficient as it says it is? If so, how should this direct where you seek counsel from and where you look for truth and wisdom?
3. What does it mean both inwardly and outwardly for a child to obey their parents and thus please God?
4. How are you doing at shepherding your child's heart and pointing them to the gospel? Give specific examples. In what ways have you focused solely on outward behavior?
5. In what ways has your parenting been more based on the wisdom of the world, which God says is foolishness, than on the eternal truth of God? What will you do about this?
6. In what areas of life do you need to put off sin and put on trusting and obeying God in order to be a godly example for your children?
7. Do you diligently teach the Bible to your children? If not, why not? Please seek help from your pastors/elders in doing this.
8. Why do you think some in the church have bought into the so-called "wisdom" of the world when it comes to disciplining their children, instead of trusting and obeying God and disciplining their children biblically through spanking? How does our culture and an unbiblical view of the nature of God play into this?