



SERIES: August / September Series “HE IS ENOUGH”

SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD

Tuesday, 09/21/2021

Scripture: Colossians 3:20-21

TITLE: The New Nature At Home

Parenting isn't for wimps. If I ever write a parenting book, that is what I will call it. If I ever write a book for kids, it will be called “Trust me, your parents aren't there to make your life miserable. No, really.”

Let's face it. Being a son or a daughter can be hard. Being a parent can be mind-boggling. But there are some simple strategies to navigating home life with better success. We'll find these in Colossians 3:20-21.

“Children, always obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord. Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.”

Two audiences. Two very strong words for both.

Paul has been talking about displaying our new nature at home. Yesterday he addressed husbands and wives. Today he is talking to parents and children. He begins by saying, “Children, obey your parents, for this pleases the Lord.” This almost mirrors the passage in Ephesians 5.

Now, this command is for anyone who is under the authority of a parent or guardian. Unless, of course, your parent is asking you to sin. Now, chances are, your parents are God-honoring people who want your best, so you should have no problem obeying. Sure, it may sound silly to you, but if you're under their roof, it's God-honoring to obey.

Does this apply to the 25, 35, or 50 year old who is back in the house? I hate to break it to you, yes. But know this, Paul doesn't want your life miserable. That's why he says, “Fathers, do not aggravate your children, or they will become discouraged.”

Fathers, should be translated “parents” as it is in Hebrews 11. Like I said at the beginning, parenting isn't for wimps. It's hard. I read a bunch of parenting books before we had kids. I read a lot of books now that I'm 14 years in. It is still very hard. And it is very easy to do things that frustrate and harm my kids' growth in life and in Christ.

As parents and guardians, we can be overprotective to a fault. We can be overbearing and overworking. We can show favoritism. We can shame. We can manipulate. We be overly critical. We can frustrate them by not having enough boundaries. There are so many ways to frustrate our young *and* adult kids.

Putting on the new nature at home never stops.

So here's my challenge for you today. Whether a parent, guardian, or child living at home, what can you do to put on your new nature in Christ? If a child living at home, how can you display Christ?

Maybe you're a parent or a guardian; how can you display that new nature of Christ in you.

And regardless if you're a child, parent, or guardian, you may need to apologize as part of displaying your new nature. That's okay. Do it, and then show them Christ.

Christ makes all the difference in the world and at home. So let's display that new nature one day at a time.