

What are we gonna do with these adults?!

Do we have requirements as parents?

Do the elders have a duty to the younger members?

Do the members above the age of 21 have a duty to live according to God's Word even when it's hard?

Little Johnny is 17 years old. He's well behaved, gets good grades and does well in sports. Although he's not perfect, he doesn't cause much grief for his parents. Little Johnny wants to go out tonight so he politely asks his parents to borrow their car so he can hang out with his friends. He assures them he will be home for his curfew. Mom asks, who's going to be there? Dad follows up with, where are you going? Johnny, usually well behaved, gets frustrated and responds, "Can't you guys just trust me?" Mom and dad know that they have to be careful so they don't 'burn bridges' with their son. What's the right answer?

No parent wants to spank their child.

No parent likes to say "no."

No parent wants a rebellious child.

No parent wants their kids to hate them.

YES, this includes parents in God's truth.

The qualities of a good parent and elder

1. They are loving
2. They are supportive
3. They set limits
4. They are a positive role model
5. They teach responsibility and accountability
6. They show respect
7. They are consistent
8. They are reliable
9. They are understanding
10. They are protective

Obviously the list could continue but let's **briefly** cover these 10 qualities.

To be loving means having unconditional love for your child. Kids make mistakes, it's a given. We still love you even after a mistake.

To be supportive means to 'have your child's back.' Obviously there are limits when it comes to this, we shouldn't just blindly support poor decisions. Children must also be held accountable for their actions and be disciplined when mistakes are made.

To set limits means clear communication on what the "do's" and "don'ts" are.

Being a positive role model means to lead by example.

Being responsible and accountable means to properly provide for your family by example.

Being respectful means to show respect to others at all times as an example to our young ones.

Being consistent means your "yes means yes and your no means no."

Being reliable means the same thing. You say you're going to do something, and you do it!

Being understanding means we are to listen even when we're upset.

Being protective is self-explanatory but this goes beyond physical protection. We have a duty as parents and elders to enforce emotional stability and set our youth up for success in the future. In fact, I pray that each younger person here does better than me in all aspects of life. I want you guys to be more successful in life and in your relationship with Our Father and His Son.

Do you know what quality was left off that list? A good parent and elder FEARS GOD! So everything described above relates to doing these things while simultaneously putting God first.

What does it mean to put God first?

Is this something that we can't understand or explain? Is this something that is super complicated? No it is NOT! In fact, it's very simple.

It's a matter of obeying God's Commandments, honoring His Holy Days and obeying His statutes, laws and judgements. This is the 'foundational' basis for the instituting of this family to live right by God's standards. It is also the foundation of the apostles as taught to them by Jesus Christ.

Quick bullet points.

- Honor and obey all 10 of His commandments
- Recognize and honor the significance of His Holy Days and remember that He said "it shall be a statute forever throughout all our generations in all your dwellings." Aka – forever and for everyone.
- Examples of the rest are our eating laws and truly loving your neighbor as yourself.

This may seem confusing to the younger folks but understand this, God said we are without excuse

Romans 1:

28. And in exact proportion as they did not consent to have God in *their* knowledge, God abandoned them to a reprobate mind, to practice *those* things that are immoral;

29. Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, guile, evil dispositions; whisperers,

30. Slanderers, God-haters, insolent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things *and practices*; disobedient to parents,

31. Void of understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable *and* unmerciful;

32. Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who commit such things are worthy of death, not only practice these things themselves, but also approve of those who commit *them*.

Romans 2:

1. Therefore you are without excuse, O man, everyone who judges *another*; for in that in which you judge the other, you are condemning your own self; for you who judge *another* are doing the same things. ([A Faithful Version](#))

Again, without excuse, meaning we know the things the Bible has taught us and we cannot stray from that.

Ephesians 1: 4. According as He has personally chosen us for Himself before *the* foundation of *the* world in order that we might be holy and blameless before Him in love; ([A Faithful Version](#))

Although this used to be hard for me to believe, this is us guys. God the Father chose us to be members of His family.

Matthew 3: 37. But let your word be *good*, your ‘Yes’ be yes and your ‘No’ be no; for anything that *is* added to these is from the evil one. ([A Faithful Version](#))

This is for parents and kids. Children must learn to respect that when we say ‘no’ that is the final answer. There should be no argument. Many of the “no’s” can be avoided if we as parents are consistent with our kids. If they already understand that the ‘no’ is never going to change, the child should not argue. If arguments occur too often, we as parents need to look in the mirror and understand that we created ‘that monster’ and it’s up to us to fix the problem. As parents and elders we must also carefully consider our decisions and not jump to rash conclusions without doing any real contemplating. We expect the same of our children and it is our duty to lead by example. None of what has been described so far is rocket science and it’s not difficult. Regardless of the age of the child or when the parent or elder came into God’s truth, we all have a duty now to put God first in our lives.

Quoting Christ...

Matthew 10: 34. Do not think that I have come to bring peace on the earth; I did not come to bring peace, but a sword.

35. For I have come to set a man at variance against his father, and a daughter against her mother, and a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.

36. And a man’s enemies *shall be those of his own household.*

37. The one who loves father or mother more than Me is not worthy of Me; and the one who loves son or daughter more than Me is not worthy of Me.

38. And the one who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me. ([A Faithful Version](#))

Obviously Christ did not mean we are to hate one another or be enemies against one another. I know I can speak for Robby and me when I say this will happen at times, especially when a person learns about God’s truth. God demands that we obey Him (Commandments, Holy Days, Statutes). When we obey Him, it can cause problems in the house. Worldly families get used to spending the Sabbath doing worldly things like going to the movies, watching sports and traveling

together. Then, all of a sudden, one member becomes convicted about honoring the Sabbath and BAM, “variance” in the “household.” Same thing when it comes to obeying God’s eating laws. What do you mean you aren’t going to eat pork anymore? You mean you’re giving up Bang Bang Shrimp!!?? It’s not as though we don’t have a wide array of ‘clean’ options guys. I know all of us obey the eating laws but embrace it! It’s cool! You’re different than your friends and you should be proud of that.

What God does not require is anything unreasonable. He does not tell us we have to scourge ourselves or treat our family with cruelty. He does not command us to teach our family hundreds of ridiculous manmade rules about the Sabbath like not flushing toilets or turning on a light.

It really is this simple, “Obey My Voice” (Genesis 27:8, Exodus 19:5, Jeremiah 7:23, Jeremiah 11:4, Jeremiah 18:10).

Ecclesiastes 12:

13. Let us hear *the conclusion of the whole matter*: Fear God, and keep His commandments. For this *is* the whole man.

14. For God shall bring every work into judgment, concerning every secret thing, whether *it is* good, or whether it is evil. ([A Faithful Version](#))

Very simple!

Romans 12: 2. Do not conform yourselves to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind in order that you may prove what is well pleasing and good, and the perfect will of God. ([A Faithful Version](#))

Still, very simple!

Ephesians 6:

1. Children, obey your parents *in the Lord*, for this is right.

2. Honor your father and *your* mother, which is the first commandment with a promise,

3. That it may be well with you, and *that* you may live long on the earth.

4. And fathers, do not provoke your children; but bring them up in *the* nurture and admonition of *the Lord*. ([A Faithful Version](#))

Simple again! Obey your parents “in the Lord.” Meaning, when and if your parents are obeying “His voice,” you obey your parents. Look at the reward, “you may live

long on the earth.” And parents, we must avoid provoking our kids and bring them up by carefully following God’s Word.

Colossians 3:19. Husbands, love *your* wives, and do not be bitter against them.
20. Children, obey *your* parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.
([A Faithful Version](#))

Obey your parents and God is happy.

Psalms 103:13. As a father has compassion upon his children, so the LORD has compassion upon those who fear Him, ([A Faithful Version](#))

Fear and obey God, and He has compassion upon us.

Proverbs 20:7. A righteous man who walks in his integrity, his children *are* blessed after him. ([A Faithful Version](#))

Parents, when we obey God, our children are blessed.

What God expects:

Although this is directed at elders, this is something that we should all be striving for. There is nothing in here that is difficult to accomplish.

I Timothy 3:

1. Faithful *is* the saying, “If any man aspires to *be* an overseer, he desires a good work.”
2. Now then, it is obligatory *that* the overseer be blameless, **the husband of one wife**, vigilant, serious-minded, respectable, hospitable, skillful in teaching;
3. Not given to much wine, not a bully, not greedy for selfish gain; but kind, not a quarreler, not a lover of money;
4. One who rules his own house well, **having his children in subjection with all respect**;
5. (For if a man does not know *how* to rule his own household, how will he take care of *the* church of God?)
6. Not a novice, lest he become conceited *and* fall into *the same* condemnation as the devil.
7. It is mandatory that he also have a good report from those *who are* outside *the* church, lest he fall into reproach and *the* snare of the devil.

8. In the same way also, the deacons who serve *must* be serious-minded, not hypocritical, not given to much wine, not greedy for selfish gain;
 9. Holding the mystery of the faith with a pure conscience.
 10. And let those *who meet the qualifications* also be proved first; then let them *be appointed to serve, if they are found to be* blameless.
 11. In the same way also, *their wives must* be serious-minded, not slanderers, sober and faithful in all things.
 12. Let the deacons be *husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own households well.*
 13. For those who have served well acquire for themselves a good standing and much confidence in *the* faith that *is* in Christ Jesus.
- ([A Faithful Version](#))

Simple again. Does it sound like we are to conform to our kids' demands? No! The answer is, we all conform to God and his plan for us. Thinking about our lives, we should each contemplate how things were before we 'knew God.' How was that working out for you? We have the ability to lead by example as opposed to follow the herd wherever they go. I am in no way suggesting we go knocking on doors or stand on street corners with bullhorns. It also doesn't mean to confront people who do not share our faith. We set an example by the way we live in doing two things, putting God first in our lives and loving our neighbor as our self ([Matthew 22:38-39](#), [Mark 12:30-31](#)).

Matthew 15: 9. For they worship Me in vain, teaching for doctrine the *commandments of men.* ([A Faithful Version](#))

Isaiah 29: 13. And the LORD said, "Because this people draws near *Me* with their mouth, and with their lips honor Me, but their worship of Me is made up of the traditions of men learned by rote, and their fear toward Me is *taught* by the *commandments of men;* (Also found in [Mark 7:7](#) & [Titus 1:14](#)) ([A Faithful Version](#))

Worldly holidays, pagan traditions, not obeying God's Commandments, especially the Sabbath. We as parents and elders cannot bend on these issues. The answer is no!

So please understand this because we love you. If the parents and elders of this group are commanded to obey God, are we allowed to teach you guys otherwise? Don't get me wrong, you're sitting in a room of adults (over 21) who grew up in

Satan's world. We made mistakes as we had yet to be gifted with God's truth. How about being different? It's actually cool! Instead of doing what everyone else does, suggest something different. Instead of partying and drinking, go hiking, play disc golf, exercise, play sports, compete! You guys have no idea how awesome of an opportunity you have. You are able to live most of your lives in God's truth. Praise God because we have a few with the opportunity to do that their entire lives! Does that mean we won't make mistakes? Heck no, that's crazy! But kiddos, one thing you should do, is learn from our mistakes and the mistakes of others. You don't need to make the same mistakes to grow as a person.

I John 1:10. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His Word is not in us. ([A Faithful Version](#))

But understand this... **Proverbs 13:24.** He who spares his rod hates his son, *but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.* ([A Faithful Version](#))

Because we love you, because God is first in our lives, we are required to be "diligent" with correction. That does not mean any parent or elder can be perfect, just like we do not expect our younger members to be perfect. However, we all can do our best to obey His Voice. You have the opportunity to do the same while helping one another when the opportunity arises. All you older kids know that the young ones look up to you guys. Heck, I look up to you guys a lot. Be that shining example and don't follow the herd.

The second to last thing any parent or elder in this room wants is for the kids to 'depart' from us some day for any reason. This includes because we stayed true to God's Voice.

However, the last thing any righteous parent or elder would want is to fail God which in turn is failing the young ones. Having said that, if the day comes when one or all the kids choose the 'broad way to destruction' as opposed to the 'narrow path to life,' every parent and elder here must hold fast to our shared faith in God's truth by obeying God's voice. For those of us who are baptized, we took a perpetual oath to put God first in our lives.

Love you all.

1/20/23

