

# **The Foundations of the Family**

*John MacArthur*

## I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 6:1-4.
- B. The family is in disarray today.
- C. The church has let the world change the discourse on the family.
- D. There are two key elements in the development of the family: the authority of the parents and the submission of the children.

## II. Submission of the child.

- A. Children are to obey. (Proverbs 1-4. 7)
- B. Children must be subject because in doing so they grow in wisdom, stature, favor with God and favor with men. (Luke 2:52)
- C. Children are to obey “in the Lord”—that is, with an eye towards pleasing Christ. (Colossians 3)
- D. The reason children are to submit and obey is because it is right.
- E. The promise of obedience to parents is a long, happy life. (Exodus 20, 2 Corinthians 9)
- F. There must be painful consequences attached to disobedience.

## III. Authority of the parents.

- A. Parents are not to provoke their children to wrath or frustrate them.
- B. This can happen through overprotection, favoritism, discouragement, and not allowing them to grow.

**Application Questions:**

1. What are some ways that the world advises parents counter to Scripture?

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2. Why is discipline necessary to invoke submission?

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3. How can a person put a positive spin on a word that has become negative in our culture: submission?

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