What Do Children Owe Their Parents
Psalms 127:3-5

Introduction:
A. Good children are such a blessing to parents (Psa. 127:3-5; cf. 3 John 1:4).
B. Bad children are such a heartache to parents.
   1. David’s son Absalom (2 Sam. 18:33)
   2. Rebellious son under the law (Deut. 21:18-20).
C. All children owe their parents perhaps much more than they realize.
D. The Bible teaches three outstanding debts that children owe their parents.

Discussion:
I. Children Owe Their Parents Obedience (Eph. 6:1)
A. The reasons for obedience.
   1. It is right (Eph. 6:1)
   2. It pleases our Lord (Col. 3:20)
B. The extent of obedience.
   1. “In all things” – not just what suits the child.
C. The time of obedience.
   1. No specific age revealed – only principles.
   2. Child in two senses: 1) a child under parents’ guardianship, care, protection; 2) an offspring.
   3. Until he is “of age” (cf. John 9:21); capable of “leaving” father’s house and be on his own.
   4. Those the father is “bringing up” (v. 4)
   5. My dad used to say., “As long as you set your feet under my table...”
   6. “Obey” when a child, but “honor” always.
D. The learning of obedience (cf. v. 4 - ASV)
   1. Through “admonition” – “calling attention to” (Strong)
   2. Through “chastening” (cf. Heb. 12:5-11; Prov. 23:13, 14; 29:15)

II. Children Owe Their Parents Honor (Eph. 6:2)
A. Honor them for their person and position.
   1. By speaking to and about them respectfully.
   2. By always showing them respect and dignity.
B. Honor them because of what they have done for you.
   1. They brought you into the world (Cf. “Didn’t ask to be born...”)
   2. They cared for you until you could care for yourself
C. Honor them because God commands it.
D. Honor the financially when needed (Matt. 15:4-6; cf. “honorarium”; 1 Tim. 5:3, 17, 18)

III. Children Owe Their Parents Repayment (1 Tim. 5:4)
A. Repay them in money if they need it.
   1. Consider what it cost to raise you ($562 per mo. for low income families yr. 2000)
   2. Consider what cost to prepare you to be on your own.
B. Repay them in other ways, if they do not need money.

Conclusion:
A. Really, we can never totally repay our parents.
B. When we are “under their roof” we can give them obedience.
C. When we are “on our own” we can continue to honor them.