

# Family Heritage Developer

Walkersville Christian Family Schools - *Established 1983*

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*"God forbid that I should forsake the inheritance of my fathers" -- 1 Kings 21:3*

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## DUTIES OF CHILDREN TO PARENTS

Part 5 of 5

By John Bunyan

There lies also a duty upon children to their parents, which they are bound both by the law of God and nature conscientiously to observe: 'Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.' And again, 'Children, obey your parents in all things; for this is well pleasing unto the Lord' (Eph 6:1; Col 3:20).

There are these general things in which children should show forth that honor that is due to their parents from them.

First, They should always count them better than themselves. I observe a vile spirit among some children, and that is, they are apt to look down upon their parents, and to have slighting and scornful thoughts of them. This is worse than heathenish; such an one has got just the heart of a dog or a beast, that will bite those that produced them, and her that brought them forth. Objection: But my father, etc., is now poor, and I am rich, and it will be a disparagement, or at least a hinderance to me, to show that respect to him as otherwise I might. Answer: I tell you, you argue like an atheist and a beast, and stand in this full flat against the Son of God (Mark 7:9-13). Must a gift, and a little of the glory of the butterfly, make you that you should not do for, and give honor to, your father and mother? 'A wise son maketh a glad father: but a foolish man despiseth his mother' (Prov 15:20). Though your parents be never so low, and you yourself never

so high, yet he is your father, and she your mother, and they must be in your eye in great esteem: 'The eye that mocketh at his father, and despiseth to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it' (Prov. 30:17).

Second, You should show honor to your parents, by a willingness to help them with such necessities and accommodations which they need. 'If any have children or nephews, let them learn to show piety at home, and to requite their parents:' says Paul, 'for that is good and acceptable before God' (1 Tim. 5:4). And this rule Joseph observed to his poor father, though he himself was next the king in Egypt (Gen. 47:12; 41:39-44). But notice, let them 'requite their parents.' There are three things for which, as long as you live, you will be a debtor to your parents.

1. For your being in this world. They are they from whom, immediately under God, you did receive it.
2. For their care to preserve you when you were helpless, and could neither care for, nor regard yourself.
3. For the pains they have taken with you to bring you up. Until you have children of your own, you will not be sensible of the pains, watchings, fears, sorrow, and affliction, that they have gone under to bring you up; and when you know it, you will not easily yield that you have recompensed them for their favor to you. How

often have they sustained you in your hunger, clothed your nakedness? What care have they taken that you might have the means to live and do well when they were dead and gone? They possibly have spared it from their own belly and back for you, and have also impoverished themselves, that you might live like a man. All these things should duly, and like a man, to be considered by you; and care should be taken on your part to repay them. The Scripture says so, reason says so, and there be none but dogs and beasts that deny it. It is the duty of parents to lay up for their children; and the duty of children to repay their parents.

Third, Therefore show, by all humble and son-like behavior, that you do to this day, with your heart, remember the love of your parents. Thus much for obedience to parents in general. Again, if your parents be godly, and you wicked, as you are, if you have not a second work or birth from God upon you, then you are to consider, that you are more strongly engaged to respect and honor your parents, not now only as a father in the flesh, but as godly parents; your father and mother are now made of God your teachers and instructors in the way of righteousness. Therefore, to allude to that of Solomon, 'My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother; bind them continually upon thine heart, and tie them about thy neck' (Prov 6:20, 21).

Now, to provoke you to consider this,  
1. That this has been the practice always of those that are and have been obedient children; yes, of Christ himself to Joseph and Mary, though he himself was God blessed for ever (Luke 2:51).

2. You have also the severe judgments of God upon those that have been disobedient, to awe you. As, (1.) Ishmael, for but mocking at one good act of his father and mother, was both thrust out of his father's inheritance and the kingdom of heaven, and that with God's approbation (Gen. 21:9-14; Gal. 4:30). (2.) Hophni and Phinehas, for refusing the good counsel of their father, provoked the great God to be their enemy: 'They hearkened not unto the voice of their father, because the Lord would slay them' (1 Sam. 2:23-25). (3.) Absalom was hanged, as I may say, by God himself, for rebelling against his father (2 Sam. 18:9).

Besides, little do you know how heart-aching a consideration it is to your parents, when they do but suppose you may be damned! How many prayers, sighs, and tears, are there wrung from their hearts upon this account? Every misdeed of yours goes to their heart, for fear God should take an occasion by it to shut you up in hardness forever. How did Abraham groan for Ishmael? 'O,' said he, to God, 'that Ishmael might live

before thee!' (Gen. 17:18). How was Isaac and Rebecca grieved for the misbehavior of Esau? (Gen. 26:34, 35). And how bitterly did David mourn for his son, who died in his wickedness? (2 Sam. 18:32, 33). Lastly, And can any imagine, but that all these prayers, sighs, etc., of your godly parents, will be to you the increase of your torments in hell, if you die in your sins notwithstanding? Again, if your parents, and you also, be godly, how happy a thing is this? How should you rejoice, that the same faith should dwell both in your parents and you? Your conversion, possibly, is the fruit of your parents' groans and prayers for your soul; and they cannot choose but rejoice; rejoice with them. It is true, in the salvation of a natural son, which is mentioned in the parable: 'This my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry' (Luke 15:24). Let therefore the consideration of this, that your parents have grace, as well as you, engage your heart so much the more to honor, reverence, and obey them.

You are better able now to consider the pains and care that your friends have been at, both for your body and soul; therefore strive to repay them. You have strength to answer in some measure the command: therefore do not neglect it. It is a double sin in a gracious son not to remember the

commandment, yes, the first commandment with promise (Eph 6:1,2). Take heed of giving your sweet parents one snappish word, or behaving in any way unseemly towards them. Love them because they are your parents, because they are godly, and because you must be in glory with them.

Again, if you be godly, and your parents wicked, as often it sadly falls out; then,

1. Let your heart yearn towards them; it is your parents that are going to hell!

2. As I said before to the wife, touching her unbelieving husband, so now I say to you, Take heed of a parroting tongue: speak to them wisely, meekly, and humbly; do for them faithfully without repining; and bear, with all child-like modesty, their reproaches, their railing, and evil speaking. Watch fit opportunities to lay their condition before them. O! how happy a thing would it be, if God should use a child to bring his father to the faith! Then indeed might the father say, With the fruit of my own body has God converted my soul. The Lord, if it be his will, convert our poor parents, that they, with us, may be the children of God.

*This is the final installment of John Bunyans, "Family Duty" series. We hope you enjoyed it, please contact us if you would like the article in its entirety.*

## Becky's Tips

### 1. Security

Everywhere we look things are frightening. As we spend each day in the teaching and training of all of our children, let's encourage them that their ONLY security is in Jesus Christ and His good plan for each individually. We cannot protect ourselves from terrorists, disease or other fears but we know that we can continuously approach our Savior for direction, instruction, purpose and protection. Some questions to

consider and share might be:

- What evidence do I have that Jesus is absolutely trustworthy?
  - What Scripture should I memorize to give me comfort when I am afraid?
  - What promises has God given in His Word that show me His loving plan for me?
  - How well do I know the person of the indwelling Spirit for all believers?
- Isaiah 50:10 "Who among you fears The Lord? Who obeys the

voice of His Servant? Who walks in darkness and has no light? Let him trust in the name of the Lord and rely upon his God."

### 2. Engagement Learning Thoughts

Engagement learning is NOT intended to give us freedom to do nothing. It is NOT an escape from training in Biblical discipline. It IS learning to have quiet moments where everyone has opportunity to hear from God, to try ideas, to see

if something works or to practice a cherished skill. This quiet time is imperative for the parent teacher to have opportunity to OBSERVE the child, noticing areas of great talent, interest or need. Great activities for engagement learning are research, experiments, free reading and questions that require a conclusion. Engagement learning should afford ample time to explore the value of Scripture and the joy of praise. It should lead to worship during even drudgery times.

### 3. Engagement Learning with Peanut Butter Cookies

This morning I was making peanut butter, chocolate chip cookies. My mind was swirling with engagement learning activities from the very young child to high school. Such as:

- The college bound high schooler might research how recipes calculate the nutritional information that accompany them. That same student might consider

alterations to the recipe to accommodate food allergies. Or he may study field to table production of flour. This list could be endless.

- Middle schoolers might experiment with various kinds of sugar to see how or if the cookie is altered. Or she might consider the production of the chocolate chip. The study of profit and loss could fit here.

- Young children could use the baked cookies and prepare gift packages for anyone lonely. This would include memorizing a Psalm that they intended to share. Or he could learn of measuring and doubling recipes. He could organize a blindfold test to determine if the pretty cookies got a higher score from the ones that were misshaped.

### 4. The Gospel's Place

For a Christian homeschooling family the Gospel should hold a place of great prominence. When we think of eternity we realize that

the Gospel paid for everything that I need. Sometimes in everyday life, applying the Gospel gets more difficult. Consider: Looking at both Old and New Testaments and noticing that EVERYTHING is about the Gospel. Spend some family time with this valuable activity. There are many points that we could discuss about the Gospel but for this writing I want us to consider looking at the Gospel related to personal rights. Then notice how many responses you make because you are considering or claiming your rights. We will be doing more on the Gospel in everyday life, especially as it relates to school and training.

Looking forward to personal time with you at each workshop!

*Love,*

*Becky*

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# STUDENT DEVELOPER

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## The Big Three

By Zachary Jones (WCFS, 10<sup>th</sup> grader)

As bombs exploded, mortars thundered, and tanks roared in bloody concert, three world leaders set aside their differences and united their forces against the Axis powers that were rampaging through Europe and threatening their freedom. Joseph Stalin of Russia, Franklin D. Roosevelt of the United States of America, and Winston Churchill of Great Britain, met together in Tehran, Iran for the first time in order to strategize for the war. Churchill had previously met with both Roosevelt and Stalin but never had the latter two met face to face.

Roosevelt's health was ailing and he was obliged to be wheeled into the conference and Stalin disliked travel by air which was the reason they had never met. The three allied leaders were forever afterwards known as the "Big Three" and their alliance was absolutely essential to the ultimate defeat of the axis powers.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, also known as FDR, was the last of the three to enter the war. However, after the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbor, Roosevelt stated in his famous speech to congress, "Yesterday, December 7, 1941 —

a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan." After the attack and the speech, there was no doubt that America was going to war and any anti-war feelings that existed vanished overnight. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, four days after the attack, FDR formally declared war on Germany, Italy and Japan. Roosevelt formed a new body, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which made final decisions concerning the American military. FDR rarely overrode their decisions and it is

to them that the success of the U.S enterprise is chiefly due. This body is still in existence today and its founding was one of Franklin Roosevelt's most significant accomplishments while in office. Many presidents' downfall is their pride and they veto experienced generals' suggestions. FDR, in my opinion, was humble and wisely listened to advice. Had it not been for his prudent and judicious reign, the outcome of the war might have been drastically different.

Winston Churchill worked closely with Franklin Roosevelt and the two often corroborated with one another. Churchill was the first person to be made an honorary citizen of the United States. Formally serving as an officer in the British Army, Churchill had much experience in warfare prior to WWII and he is regarded as one of the greatest wartime leaders of the twentieth-century. On the day Germany declared war on England, Winston Churchill was officially appointed Prime Minister of England. He frequently visited soldiers fighting for their country and filled them with hope and energy. An American visitor reported "Everywhere I went in London people admired [Churchill's] energy, his courage, his singleness of purpose. People said they didn't know what Britain would do without him... He was simply the right man in the right job at the right time." Churchill's fiery speeches roused the embattled British and in his first speech as prime minister he stated: "I have nothing to offer but blood, toil, tears and sweat." The brave people of England were inspired by their prime minister's words of hope and encouragement in his famous speeches, one of which concluded "... we shall never surrender!" In another, Churchill said that if the British Empire were to last for a thousand years, men will still say "this was their

finest hour." He gave these speeches just before the Battle of England in which a series of air raids over England which lasted many days. Although greatly outnumbered, the British RAF fighter pilots held on day after day. Had they not done so, England would have been lost. The eyes of all of England were on these brave pilots and England's very existence rested on their shoulders. Churchill's words at the height of the battle summed it up saying: "never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few" which engendered the enduring nickname "The Few" for the RAF pilots who won it. Throughout the war, Churchill inspired his people with hope, encouragement and example. At the end of the war, when Germany was finally defeated, Churchill told an enthusiastic crowd of people "This is your victory" to which the people responded "No it is yours." All throughout the war, the people of Great Britain fully trusted and remained loyal to their beloved leader and Winston Churchill didn't let them down.

Although Joseph Stalin was a ruthless dictator and many prisoners of war starved to death in the Russian prison camps, credit should be bestowed on him for the downfall of Adolf Hitler, despite his grievous post-war actions. At the start of the war, Stalin fought independently of the Allies, but, with a common enemy, Stalin naturally joined Great Britain in the fight against Germany. There had been a non-aggression pact between Germany and Russia but Hitler broke that pact without warning and invaded Russia. The Nazi's pushed deep into Russian territory before they were halted and in turn pushed back in a counteroffensive. It was their first significant defeat in the war. So efficient was Stalin in leading the Soviets in military industry that Adolf Hitler himself

praised him. Stalin, nonetheless, was headstrong and didn't like listening to his generals. However, after a particular battle in which his generals' wise advice helped to repel the Nazi's, Joseph Stalin began to heed their advice. Following the bloody battle at Stalingrad, the Russians steadily pushed the Germans back and eventually advanced into Germany. At last the Nazi's were pinned down in Berlin with the allies closing in from all sides. The final victory would not have happened without all three countries doing their part. Despite final victory, there was a dear price to pay. No other allied country suffered nearly as many casualties as did the Russians. One in every four Russian was killed or wounded. Thereafter, Stalin was at times referred to as one of the most influential men in human history and in 1948, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

Together, men of three different cultures and countries stood side by side and with their forces fought and died with each other for a common cause. Painted vividly in the minds of many reporters and eyewitnesses is the picture of American and Russian soldiers standing side by side rejoicing after the victory in Berlin. They all set aside their differences and saw each other as common soldiers all fighting for a common cause. What did it matter if they spoke different languages, ate different food and wore different clothes? Here they all were, fighting under three big leaders, helping to defeat one of the most ruthless regimes of all time.

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