

**Welcome to the  
Common Ground Café!**



**Sunday, October 15, 2023**

**Mind Craft  
A Study of Colossians 3:20-21**

**[www.hillcrest.church](http://www.hillcrest.church)**

Make a list of recent books, TV shows, and movies that involve family relationships. Try to have a list of at least 5 stories or shows on your list before moving on to the next question.

In these stories or shows, how were the parents portrayed?

When parents are often portrayed in a negative way, do these kinds of messages make it easier for kids to dismiss and dishonor parents?

**Children made new in Christ  
will mind their parents**

Read Colossians 3:20.

Read Ephesians 6:1. Does the phrase “in the Lord” describe the parent or the child? In other words, pick one of the following and explain your answer:

- Paul has in mind **parents** who are “in the Lord.” When parents are “in the Lord,” a child’s obedience to that parent will help the child develop as a Christian.
  
- Paul expected **children** who are “in the Lord” to obey their parents, regardless of whether a father or mother is a Christian. Part of being “in the Lord” as a child is being obedient to parents.

In Deuteronomy 5:16, what two blessings are attached to the command to honor parents?

In what ways have you “prospered” because of your own parents’ instructions?

Read Acts 5:29. Some people complain that the Bible’s instruction for children to obey their parents prohibits children from objecting to unrighteous demands from their parents--and even prevents children from reporting abuse to authorities. How can Acts 5:29 help us better understand what Colossians 3:20 is **not** commanding?

**Parents made new in Christ  
will mind their children**

The word “mind” means more than just “obey.” In Pastor Tom’s sermon, what did he mean that parents must “mind” their children?

Read Colossians 3:21. Though *both* parents must “mind” their children, Paul addresses fathers specifically. Why?

How is your life today still impacted—for better and for worse—by your relationship with your parents growing up?

## **“Our Father Which Art in Heaven”**

Colossians 3:20-21 is about the relationship between children and parents—especially fathers. But our childhood home life is training for thinking about a much higher relationship. Jesus wanted us to think of God as our Father.

How has your relationship with your parents either helped or hampered your relationship with God?

Read Psalm 27:10. If you were raised by an abusive or neglectful parent, how can this verse encourage you today?

Close with praise reports and prayer requests