

Neighborly News

Brought to you by your friends at the Mt. Hebron Church of Christ.

A different kind of family debt

What parents do not owe their children:

- **The latest fashion** (Acts 10:34–35; 1 Timothy 2:9–10; James 2:1–10). We need to teach our kids to earn admiration and respect through character and not clothing.
- **The hottest toys and games** (Ecclesiastes 1:4, 8). Look through your house at all the “gotta have it” toys that haven’t been touched in months. I wrapped all these one year and gave them as anonymous gifts to needy families. Not once did anyone ask “what happened to my . . . ?” or “where is my . . . ?”
- **A car and money to burn** (1 Timothy 6:10–11). There’s nothing inherently wrong with buying your kids a car, but most 16-year-olds think they are OWED a car at 16. Take a group to the mall or on a youth trip and see who has the most spending money—it’s not the adults!
- **A life free from pain or embarrassment.** The Bible says that all who would live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (2 Timothy 3:12). Peter said, “If any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but rather glorify God” (1 Peter 4:16).

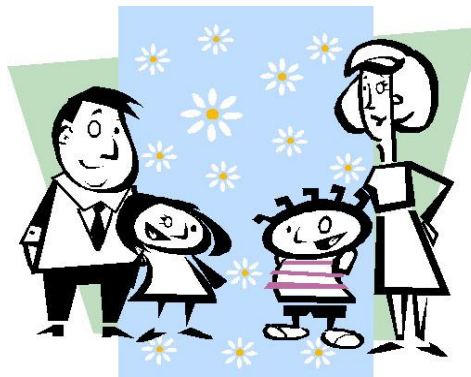
What parents do owe their

children:

- **A godly example** (Psalm 85:13; cf. 1 Peter 2:21–22). Jesus gave His disciples an example (John 13:15), as Paul did his (1 Corinthians 11:1).
- **A good name** (Proverbs 22:1).
- **A peaceful home** (Proverbs 21:9; cf. 25:24).
- **Objectivity** (Proverbs 19:18). Everyone (including teachers, the police, etc.) is not “out to get” your child.
- **Structure and discipline** (1 Samuel 3:13). Children need discernable boundaries. Children need to understand the consequences of violating the boundaries.

What children owe their parents:

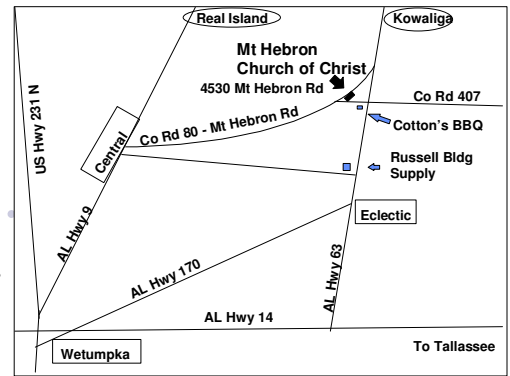
- **Love** — (1 John 4:19).
- **Respect** (Ephesians 6:1–3) — For the name they wear, especially when their parents aren’t around.
- **Obedience** — The word obey in Ephesians 6:1 is from Greek the compound *hupo* (hupo = under + *akouo* = hear or give the ear to). Literally it means “to listen



with the intent to obey” (cf. 1 Samuel 3:9–10).

- **Submission** — (1 Peter 5:5).
- **Proper care when they become aged** — (Proverbs 23:22; 1 Timothy 5:4). The word *despise* in the phrase “despise not thy mother when she is old” means to hold in contempt or as insignificant (it is an antonym of reverence). Your parents helped you with your first steps; help them with their last. Your parents made sure your home was clean and your food was hot—don’t let them live in squalor. If you can’t take care of your parents, find someone who can. First Timothy 5:8 says that a failure to properly care for your parents disrespects them, disgraces the church, denies the faith, and damns your soul.

Be sure to pay all your family debts! —*Todd Clippard*



Mt. Hebron Church of Christ

P.O. Box 240159
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.
Eclectic, Ala. 36024

Come and visit us

Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services
11:00 AM & 6:00 PM
Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

MARRIED LIFE

Troubles in marriage often start when a man gets so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar.... Too many couples marry for better or for worse, but not for good.... When a man marries a woman, they become one—but the trouble starts when they try to decide which one! ... Remember just because many couples “harp at each other” does not mean that their marriage is made in heaven! *“A merry heart doeth good...”* — Proverbs 17:22



“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” - Hebrews 4:12

On being deceived The preacher and the hog farmer

-A man is DECEIVED if he is a hearer and not a doer of the Word ([James 1:22](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED if he says that he has no sin ([1John 1:8](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED when he thinks himself to be something when he is nothing ([Gal 6:3](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED when he thinks himself to be wise with worldly wisdom ([1Cor 3:18](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED when he seems to be religious and does not bridle his tongue ([James 1:26](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED when he thinks he will not reap what he sows ([Gal 6:7](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED when he thinks that evil company will not corrupt good morals ([1Cor 15:33](#)).

-A man is DECEIVED when he thinks that the unrighteous will inherit the kingdom of God (heaven) ([1Cor 6:9](#)).

-Now Satan will try to DECEIVE you to not pay attention to the above. Will you let him?

A certain hog farmer refused to have anything to do with the church because all he ever saw was a bunch of hypocrites who belonged to it. He always named two or three.



One day the pastor of the church came to buy a hog from him. After looking over the farmer's entire swine herd, the pastor pointed to a scrawny, sickly, ugly little runt and said, "I want that one."

The farmer protested vigorously, "Why, Preacher, you don't want that one. He's the scrawniest runt I ever saw. Look, here are some fine hogs over here." "That's all right," said the preacher, "I want that one."

After the purchase was completed, the pastor said, "Now I am going to haul this pig all over the country and tell everyone that this is the kind of hog you raise!"

"Hey, Preacher, that's not fair," the farmer protested. "I raise fine hogs. An occasional runt doesn't ruin my whole stock."

"I am only following your example of condemning a whole church because of the actions of a few of its members," explained the pastor. The farmer got the point!

Hostages in the pews—Satan's attacks on Christians

Satan is not warring over those who are in the world, for he already has them in his grasp. His war is to conquer those who are sitting in the pew. Those who have been reconciled, he longs to take hostage once again. His strategy is deceptive, because he uses them to hinder the work of the church.

First, he deludes them with other goals in life which soon take priority over the work of the church and personal involvement. They become members of the body which become dysfunctional. Hands that will not work. Feet that will not travel to God's appointed place. A mouth that will not confess Jesus to others. Ears that soon fail to listen. A brain that refuses to think and dwell on things

above. Lame, blind and deaf, the church struggles to fulfill its purpose.

Second, he lures them into complacency. Having become satisfied with less than God's desire for their lives, they settle for adolescence rather than maturing to adulthood, while at the same time believing they are adults. They fail to meditate upon God's Word, except while sitting in the pew. They give token gifts instead of a sacrifice. They listen to lessons with change or repentance far from mind. Maturity is not even in view, because their eyes have been blinded. Eventually, they find themselves attending but not involved.

Third, he tantalizes their sense with false teachings with the purpose of taking others

off course. Having become numb, new sensations must fill the void. Having not understood God's purpose they change their attitude from not wanting to go beyond what is written to stretching the limits as far as they can. Deluded themselves, they delude others to a false sense of security. They now must seek bigger, greater sensational things to keep the momentum going so their individual spirits can feel fulfilled. The appearance of great things happening blinds their eyes to the fact they have been taken hostage, and pride keeps them from being set free.

Fourth, he stalemates their vision with past accomplishments. Boasting in the glory of a successful past program they fail to launch out into new, more productive, fruitful efforts. They might even nurture a program

long after its death. Individuals stop teaching and serving others after just a few victories. They fail to dream of God's use of their lives and God's vision for the church.

If the church and we as individual members are ever going to be what God desires, the hostages in the pews must be freed. The only thing that can set them free is the truth. No mystical, sensational experience, just reasonable, plain truth. Only the Bible can reveal if we are held hostage. Only the Bible can set and keep us free. Read it, study it, and make it yours, that you might heed the warnings and not be taken hostage.

