

Humble Children of God

God has made each one of us, as it says in Genesis, on the first pages of the Bible. We are made in God's image. He loves us unconditionally. For this reason He sent His only Son Jesus to die for our sins and the sins of all people. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

The unbelieving world, as well as our own mind, may teach and tempt us to be selfish. We might see this in our schools and at our work places. Some people, even some parents, don't want big families these days; they wish to have more time and money for themselves. This can directly affect their children, too. Moms and dads are sometimes afraid to say no to their children, and this can be hurtful to them. God's Word teaches: "And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger: but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4, paraphrased).

One duty that we have as parents is to teach our children to respect and honor God. The Bible calls that the fear of God. It is a good and healthy fear. This means that we are to respect our neighbors and all people. When the Holy Spirit works in us, we humbly try to do our duties like we are doing them for Jesus. You children also have duties in God's kingdom. One of your duties is to listen to and respect your moms and dads and older ones. In this way, you honor God.

The devil, however, always tries to draw us into sin. He might whisper in our ear: don't listen to your parents, or your parents are so unfair. Nevertheless, let's listen to our Good Shepherd, Jesus, and humbly ask that our sins be forgiven. Believing parents happily preach that familiar gospel: believe all your sins forgiven in Jesus' name and precious blood. You, too, can preach that same gospel to your parents!

"Honour all men. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king" (1 Pet. 2:17). It is important that we are kind and respectful to elders. Do we open doors for them and let them go through first? Good manners are often noticed in school, too. Your teacher probably wouldn't be happy if you would always shout out answers without first getting permission to answer!

We believers are a light to the world, and like a flickering candle we travel in faith. May we always humble ourselves before God in His kingdom.

Mikko Pasanen

Things to visit about:

- Can you name Bible characters who were humble servants of God?
- Why does God want us to be humble? What can happen if we're too proud?
- Can you find a song in our songbook that talks about humbleness? What does it say?

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