

Dear Brother Michael Pearl,

I have been a proponent of your work, website and materials for many years, however I was very disappointed to read your Patriarchal Dysfunctional Families article. You seem to be saying that anyone holding to the Doctrine of Biblical Patriarchy cannot at the same time be led by the Holy Spirit. Certainly there is dysfunction anywhere mere mortals are involved, do we attack the Biblical Doctrine of Marriage because there is so much divorce in Christianity? God forbid! We uphold the Biblical Doctrine regardless of the abounding examples of dysfunction that exist

What you made all to clear is your personal bias against Patriarchy and obedience to parents. You said, “... **nowhere does the Bible even suggest that an adult should obey his parents. It speaks quite to the contrary. Jesus said very plainly, “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother...(Matt. 10:35–37).”** First, to use this reference to advocate disobedience to parents against Patriarchal principle is a gross misapplication of scripture by taking it out of context, certainly these verses were not instruction in Godly Family Principle, this was a warning of what it would be like when believers rose up in the midst of unbelievers! Secondly, you said, “**and nowhere does the Bible even suggest that an adult should obey his parents...**” Well here are two from the New Testament which far exceed ‘suggestion’ and both refer to grown-ups:

(Rom 1:30) Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents,

(2Ti 3:2) For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy,

Of the ten commandments only one was positive, allowing it to be broadly interpreted. Honor thy Father and thy Mother... honor can include obedience! *And Paul adds (Eph 6:1) Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.* I have Adult Children, they will always be my children. Paul adds the caveat “in the LORD” showing that Godly discernment may be required, this is especially applicable to the situation of grown children. I hope that you will print this response and confirm your credibility, knowing that many are thinking exactly what I have taken the time to articulate.

I quote you again, “The Bible viewed in its entirety—not cherry-picked—throws a lot of light on the subject of honor to parents.’

Your friend and fellow laborer in Christ,
Nicklas Arthur
www.crosstheborder.org
nicklasarthur@yahoo.com

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