

# BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

John 7:1-13



## SYNOPSIS

P. Peter opened with a hypothetical about Chris whose Christian parents wanted him to be an I-banker but who wanted to do youth ministry in the inner city. As Chris's spiritual mentor, how would you advise him? How do you understand Biblical passages concerning obedience and honor?



## OUTLINE

1

### OBEDIENCE TO OUR FATHERS AND MOTHERS

The Bible is explicit in commanding children to obey their parents in *everything*. (Eph 6:1; Col 3:20) We are quick to seek exceptions to this command and miss the weight of the Bible's teaching. Rather than lord this command over children, parents should recognize Paul's command to not embitter them. (Col 3:21) Adult children shift from obeying their parents in everything to honoring their father and mother, but we must recognize the authority of the Bible and obey its commands.

2

### OBEDIENCE TO OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN

Jesus modeled an intense obedience to his Father. He could sound heartless in the way he said the dead would bury their own dead or that those who put their hand to the plow and look back are not fit for Kingdom service. (Luke 9:59-61) When Jesus's earthly family tried to take him away from his ministry, he called those who do his Father's will as his true family. (Matt 12:46-50) He was completely committed to his Father's mission, and his obedience to his Father was absolute. Even as a 12-year-old, Jesus knew he had to be in his Father's house. (Luke 2:41-52)

3

### HONORABLE DISOBEDIENCE

Do not use Jesus as an excuse for rebellion against family. Discern whether your parents truly are misaligned with God or if you want to justify your disobedience to them. Ruth disobeyed her mother-in-law but honored her. Jonathan disobeyed his father but still honored him. Obedience to God requires honoring our earthly parents. Both are commanded.

Jesus obeyed his mother even though he disagreed with the timing of her request. (John 2:4) In today's passage, he disagreed with his family's sense of timing as well. (John 7:6) Even as he was hanging on the cross, he made sure that Mary was taken care of by giving her and John to each other as surrogate family members. (John 19:26-27)

Have compassion for and a desire to understand our parents, even if they made poor parenting choices. The model for perfect submission and authority is the Trinity. This should be our vision for relationships - no heavy-handed manipulation or control, just mutual submission and love. In Trinity-inspired relationships, we can experience submission and freedom. (2 Cor 3:17) As you imitate Christ, perhaps the hope for transformation for your family could be you bringing Christ's fragrance into it.



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## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1

How has your family shaped your understanding of scripture, Jesus and God?

2

How do we discern God's will from our own desires?

3

How do we honorably disobey our parents?

4

How do we develop compassion for our imperfect parents, especially if they have hurt us?

5

For parents: How can we as parents not embitter our children?



## BIG IDEA

The Trinity should be our model and vision for relationships, especially for our families. Children, honor your parents. Obey God. Insist on honorable disobedience if your family is misaligned with God's commands.

Your imitation of the Trinity in relating to your family could be the hope for your family to change.

