INTRODUCTION

"Influence" - the effect one has on another without any exertion of force.

- 3. CHILDREN children have 3 God-given obligations.

 Children will ask, "Why?" to each of these and here's the rationale.
 - 1) (Ecclesiastes 12:1) "Remember now your Creator in the days of your youth"

Youth have a great ability for learning, developing talents, and these may be used to God's glory. Example: Lads To Leaders program.

Seeing our youth in God's service gives us "older" folks hope for the future of the congregation.

No regrets! Later in life, don't look back and say, "Why didn't I ...?" The danger of delay: lose your desire or lose your opportunity.

- 2) (Ephesians 6:1) "Children, obey your parents in the Lord ..." (Colossians 3:20) "Children, obey your parents in all things, ..."
 - (Eph. 6:1) "for this is right" proper, fitting, respectful, good manners. (Colossians 3:20) "for this is well pleasing to the Lord"

In life, learn to do right without expecting a reward in your hand.

Wisdom / experience of the parent is gained.

There are some thing in life you do not want to experience first-hand.

The habit of obedience is good discipline for the future.

You will never reach an age where you do not obey someone or something.

- 3) (Ephesians 6:2) "Honor your father and mother ..." (Exodus 20:12) "Honor your father and mother ..." (Malachi 1:6) "A son honors his father"
 - (v2) "which is the first commandment with promise" so, it's the law.
 - (v3) "that it may be well with you" there's an intrinsic value in doing what is right, a feel-good attitude about yourself, not guilty.

(v3) "and you may live long on the earth"

(Exodus 20:12) "that your days may be long upon the land"

Parents will ask you to stay away from things that shorten life:

drug abuse, alcohol abuse, breaking the law.

Parents, and the Bible, ask you to leave those things which will harm you physically, mentally, emotionally, or spiritually.

4. OLDER FOLKS AT HOME

(Titus 2:1-3) "that the older men be ... the older women likewise, be ..." Christine's parents lived with us 10 years before their passing.

It was a pleasant influence on us: socially and spiritually.

Their 3 grandsons reaped the benefits of their influence.

A great-grandson has Darrell in his name.