

Read Ephesians 6:1-9 several times. Pray and ask God to help you hear clearly from Him today. This week we are again looking at God's plan of authority. We will be dividing our time into two topics; the child/parent relationship and the employee/employer (slave/master) relationships.

Our children deserve our best effort as Christian parents. If we don't do the work now they will suffer the consequences later. They may well make poor choices later in life but it should not be because we were slack in our responsibilities as a parent.

1. With your highlighters mark children -green, fathers-blue, mothers- pink. Don't forget to carefully mark the pronouns also. (this marking is simply a tool to help you easily see the teaching of the text) What do verses 1- 2 tell children to do? Why they are to do it? (take your answer from the text)
2. What does it mean "to obey your parents in the Lord"?
3. What is the promise? Ex.20:1-17 and Deut. 5:6-21
4. Why do you suppose children were commanded in verse 1 to "obey" and in verse 2 to "honor"?

"Obey" is translated from the Greek word *Hupakouo* – to listen, to harken to a command, to submit, to be obedient.

"Honor" is translated from the Greek word *Timao* - to estimate, fix the value, to revere, venerate

5. Is it possible to obey and not honor?
6. Is it possible to honor and not obey?
7. As parents we are to be good stewards of what God has given into our care. What would this look like in regard to our child?
8. It has been said that the home is a proving ground for the sincerity of our faith. What is your home reflecting about you? Your family?
9. There are many verses that can benefit us as parents. Read Phil.2:3; Proverbs 3:1-16, what instruction do you find for parenting in these verses?
10. All too often today we see parents who yell or threaten or worse ignore their children and training and discipline are neglected. Go back and read Prov. 3:11-12; who is to be our example? Yelling and threatening are emotional abuse and are never biblical discipline.

11. What two words in Prov. 3:12 describe the object of God's discipline and the father's?
12. In verse 4 fathers are warned not to exasperate (some translation say provoke) their children.

The

Greek word is Parorgizo - to rouse to wrath, to provoke, exasperate, anger.

Remember context is always king!

What is the context of this section of scripture, Eph. 6:1-4?

What has Paul been talking about?

Col. 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

The Greek the word for discouraged is Athumeo - to be disheartened, dispirited, broken in spirit

13. How important is it for us to be purposeful in our parenting? What is our purpose to be? Read the second half of Eph. 6:4.

The word for “bring them up” in the Greek is Ektrepho – to nourish up to maturity

How does a wise and caring gardener nourish and train a young, tender vine so that it will grow up to its full potential?

Admonition(advice for or against doing something)

Exhortation (words we use to urge them to do right)

14. Has your study this week inspired you in your parenting? In what way?
15. What specific steps will you take to train up your child (children) in the way that would truly glorify God?
16. What is your God-given role as a Christian wife and mother?
17. Why do you suppose the parenting counsel of the verses we have studied this week is directed only to the fathers and not to the mothers also? Read Eph. 5:24 again
18. What area of parenting would you say you are doing a good job in so far?

19. Can you think of an area that perhaps needs more consistency and work?
20. What are some ways parents provoke and discourage their children?
21. If we desire our children to love and follow God, what steps should we be taking today in order to see this become a reality? Ps.103:2 , Ps. 150:6
22. Look up Proverbs 19:18 and briefly explain in your own words.
23. After instilling a love and reverence for God in the heart of your child, what are some important qualities you desire to see in your child more and more with each year?

Now let's look at authority in the work place.

At the time Paul is writing to the Ephesians, the practice of slavery was quite prevalent. Because many of the masters and their slaves had become Christians, the early church needed to deal with the question of master/slave relations. In Paul's day, women, children, and slaves had few rights. In the church, however, they had freedoms that society denied them. Paul tells husbands, parents and masters to be caring.

Pray and ask God to open your eyes, to the truths he has for you, in this section of scripture. Read these verses several times.

24. Which of the two, master or slaves, does Paul begin his instruction, in this section?

In the Greek, the word is *Doulos*- a slave, bondman, and man of servile condition, devoted to another, to the disregard of one's own interests, a servant, or attendant.

What does Paul tell them to do?

25. How are they to obey?

In the Greek, the word "fear" *Phobos* means reverential awe. (This same word was used, in Eph. 5:21.) The word "trembling", in verse 5, is often misunderstood. In the Greek it is *tromos*, which is used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely, to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfill his duty.

26. Now that you have a more clear understanding of the meaning of the words of verse 6, write it in your own words.

27. What part of verse 6, would guarantee our best efforts, if we obey in this way?
28. Define “eye-service.”
29. Define “people-pleasers.”
30. Why would neither, of these two acts of service, be enough?
31. When we only work when we are being watched or to be seen for self-promotion, who are we really reverencing?
32. Verse 6, calls on employee’s to obey those over them, “doing the will of God from the heart.” What does God require of us? Micah 6:8 asks and answers this question.
1. _____, 2. _____, 3. _____
33. What does Paul mean in Eph. 6:6 when he says, “Doing the will of God from the heart?”
34. How enthusiastically do you work at your job?
35. What promise do you see, in Eph. 6:8 that should motivate us even in the most menial of tasks?
36. Verse 9 turns the attention to those in authority. What are those in authority commanded to do? Be specific.
37. What are most employee’s looking for today? What are most employer’s looking for today? Isn’t it refreshing, when you see a company that thinks about their employees and chooses to share profits made, with those who work to make the company successful? Isn’t it refreshing, to see someone who puts in a full day’s work, for the pay they are receiving?
38. Even if you are not employed or employing anyone at this time, why is it vital to our walk of faith, that we understand God’s word in this area?
- How do you treat the people who service your car, check out / carry out your groceries, take your order at a restaurant, collect your trash, deliver your mail, etc.?
39. How has God spoken to you as you have studied this section of scripture?
40. When ask, “What is the greatest commandment?” Jesus replied “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’” Matt. 22:37–39
- In what way does knowing and living out Matthew 22:37-39, help our work relations?