

Ephesians

Lesson #23, Chapter 6:1-9

Read through Chapter 5 and 6:1-9 before beginning this lesson. Be sure to ask the Lord to give you insight into His Word.

1. Explain the flow of thought in Chapter 5 as it moves into Chapter 6 verse 1.
2. What instruction does God's Word contain for children (verse 1)?
3. What parameters are built into this command to children in verse 1? How would those parameters be a protection, guide, and motivation to children in their obedience (verse 1)?
4. Paul's epistles were sent to the churches and then read out loud for all to hear. Here, children are addressed along with the adults. What does that tell you about children and their participation in church?
5. In verses 2-3 Paul recites the fifth of the Ten Commandments (which can be found in Ex. 20:2-17 or Deut. 5:6-21) and adds his own commentary on that commandment. Why would Paul's comment be a helpful motivation for children—and for parents training their children?
6. Define *obey* [Strong's #5219] and *honor* [Strong's #5091]. Why are both terms good and necessary for children to have toward their parents?

7. Children must be trained to obey their parents, and that responsibility falls upon the parents. If you have children in your home, are you teaching them to obey and honor you as if they were obeying the Lord? What are some ways you can train your children to obey and honor you? If you no longer have children at home or don't have any children, how can you help and encourage other parents to teach their children to obey?

8. Next in our text, Paul gives instructions to fathers. What does he warn them not to do (verse 4)? What are some ways a father could do that? See also Col. 3:21.

9. In contrast, Paul explains how fathers are to train their children. What do you learn in verse 4?

10. Define the following words:
 - a. *bring up* [Strong's #1625]:

 - b. *discipline* (NIV *training*, KJV *nurture* [Strong's #3809]):

 - c. *instruction* (KJV *admonition* [Strong's #3559]).

11. Based on what we have studied about verse 4, how would you describe biblical parenting?

12. What are some ways parents can excel still more in *bringing up their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*?
13. No other relationship we have seems to reveal the deficiencies of our own walk with the Lord like that of the parent and child. Parenting tests us in *what we believe, how we live it out, and how we pass it on* to our children. We must possess ourselves what we seek to pass on to our children. How are you doing in *your own obedience* to the Lord? What areas need some attention?

If you neglect to instruct them [your children] in the way of holiness, will the devil neglect to instruct them in the way of wickedness? No; if you will not teach them to pray, he will [teach them] to curse, swear, and lie; if ground be uncultivated, weeds will spring. ~John Flavel¹

Treat your children as though you won't have them next year.
Train your children as though they won't have you next year.²

14. Explain the who, what, when, where, and why of a slave's obedience from verses 5-8.
15. The closest parallel we have to the slave/master relationship today is the employee/boss relationship. Do the qualifications for a slave's obedience have application in the employee/boss realm?
16. What do you learn about the will of God from verses 5-6?

¹Flavel, John. *A Puritan Golden Treasury*. Ed. I. D. E. Thomas. Carlisle, Pennsylvania: The Banner of Truth Trust. 204.

²Unknown.

17. No matter what your work situation, what truths from these verses do you find especially encouraging? Why?

18. How does the *replacement principle* (i.e., remembering we work for Christ, rather than for man) change everything for us, no matter what our job may be?

19. What two commands are given to Christian masters in verse 9?

20. Paul says that masters/bosses are to do the same things to their slaves/employees. What are the *same things* he refers to? See verses 5-8.

21. What *two truths* are to guide a Christian master/boss in how he treats his slaves/employees, especially those who are fellow believers from verse 9? Explain why knowing that would make a difference in how a master/boss might treat his slave/employee.

22. The key to children obeying their parents and parents training their children, slaves being obedient to their masters and masters treating their slaves respectfully comes down to doing all things *as to the Lord*. Maintaining that attitude can transform every task into direct service for the Lord. How can any attitudes of bitterness, resentment, rebellion, or anger be transformed, so that all things can be done as to the Lord?

Forth in Thy name, O Lord, I go,
My daily labor to pursue;
Thee, only Thee, resolved to know,
In all I think, or speak, or do.

The task Thy wisdom hath assigned
O let me cheerfully fulfil:
In all Thy works Thy presence find,
And prove Thy good and perfect will.
~Charles Wesley³

I cannot work my soul to save,
For that my Lord hath done;
But I will work like any slave,
For the love of God's dear Son.
~Author unknown⁴

Work becomes worship when done for the Lord. ~Author unknown⁵

³Water, M. (2000). *The New Encyclopedia of Christian Quotations* (621). Alresford, Hampshire: John Hunt Publishers Ltd.

⁴Ibid (1129).

⁵Ibid (1129).