

Lesson 9

Read Ephesians 6:1-9

The God-ordained role of the parents and children

1. What is the instruction to children in verse 1?

To obey - because it's right

2. The phrase "in the Lord" does not refer to parents who are believers, but rather that the obedience should be done as if you were doing it for the Lord. What very simple logic is given for this command? (vs. 1)

It's the right thing to do

3. Beyond just obeying, what is to be the attitude of the offspring towards parents? (vs. 2)

To honor them

4. This commandment comes with an added blessing.....that you will enjoy long life. Make a list of some natural consequences of obeying and honoring your parents that would lead to long life.

Not drinking, not doing drugs, not hanging around with the wrong crowd, eating properly, early-to-bed-early-to-rise, getting an education, going to church

We've already seen that God is a god of order. He is always pleased with voluntary submission, which is the opposite of self-centered pride. He has given us the guidelines that lead to peace and harmony in the home. When either the head (husbands/parents) or the submissive party (wives/children) refuses to acknowledge that God's way is the best way, it leads to friction and a breakdown in family relationships. Children who are not taught self-discipline and the need to be submissive often struggle with authority in their adult lives, too.

5. Why do children need to be instructed about what is right? see Romans 3:10 & 11

No one is born righteous; the natural bent of every person is away from God; no one is naturally good & righteous

6. Do these verses confirm or contradict the modern thought that all children begin life as good and innocent?

Contradict

7. From your own experience, would you say that children need to be taught how to be selfish and demanding or do they need to be taught obedience and concern for the rights of others?

Obedience & concern for others

8. Read Proverbs 13:24. What is one important way that a parent shows love to a child?

Careful discipline

9. According to Proverbs 22:15, what do parents need to remember about their children?

They all naturally turn to "folly" & they need to be disciplined

10. God is our perfect example of godly parenting. Read Hebrews 12:4-11. Who does God discipline? (vs. 6)

The ones that He loves & accepts as children

11. What is God's goal when He disciplines His children? (Heb. 12:10)

It is for our good & so we will share in His holiness

12. What does this discipline lead to? (Heb. 12:11)

A harvest of righteousness & peace

13. Let's return now to Ephesians chapter six. In verse 4, what are fathers (or parents) warned against?

Don't exasperate your children but bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord

14. List some actions or attitudes of parents that might lead to a child being exasperated?

Never being able to please; never reaching the parent's goal, never being praised or respected by parent; being compared to another child

15. What instruction is given in contrast to this? (4b)

Bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

Give some practical ideas about how this might be accomplished.

Teach them the Word. Model it before them. Love them unconditionally. Talk about what God has done for you. Teach them to do right and to respect God and authority.

The God-ordained role of master and slave

Read chapter 6:5-9

16. What is the first command to the slave? vs. 5

Obey masters with respect & fear

In our society today, we could apply these same principles to the employee/employer relationship. In every work place environment someone has to be in charge and someone has to follow or submit.

17. Once again at the end of verse 5 and in verse 7 we see that we are to submit just as: we would obey Christ.

18. Verse six describes two ways/attitudes of submitting. What are they?

1. To win their favor when they are watching you.
2. Doing the will of God from your heart

19. What is the promise in verse 8?

The Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is a slave or free

20. Now read verse 9, which is written to masters/employers. What "same things" do you think are being referred to and what is the motivation for treating employees in this way?

With respect and out of fear (of God) ; realize that God is watching and will reward accordingly.