

EPHESIANS
SUBMISSION AT HOME & WORK

Thursday, October 1
Reading: Ephesians 6:1-9

Ephesians 6:1 *Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." 4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

The home is the training ground for children. They are to obey their parents just as Jesus was obedient to His parents as He grew up in Nazareth (Luke 2:51). They are to “obey” which means to do what you are told and “honor” which means to love and respect. As head of the household, Paul instructs fathers to raise their children in the Lord. Parents are to nourish and cherish (“bring up”) their children, teach them right from wrong (“training”), and discipline and correct them so they follow God’s path (“instruction”). This is all done in love and not in anger to help their children grow. The attitudes of love and respect that are fostered in youth will carry over in their relationship with others and with the Lord.

Slaves and masters were equal in Christ, but how were they to relate in the household or workplace? The principles Paul presents can be applied today to employees and employers. Workers are to obey their bosses with respect and honor just as they would do for Christ. They are to work hard not just when their boss is looking and not just to please him or to gain some reward or promotion. They are to do this because they are slaves to Christ and all they do is really done for the Lord, knowing that God will reward believers for their faithfulness.

Likewise, masters/bosses are to treat slaves/workers with the same attitudes Paul has just commanded of slaves. Since they both have the same Master in heaven, they are to be “just and fair” with their workers (Colossians 4:1). They are to treat them the same way God treats His people.

LESSON ONE: “Obey...Honor.” Children are to obey their parents with one exception. “In the Lord” means that if a parent demands disobedience to God and His Word than a child must choose to follow God and not the disobedient parent. If parents are Christians than this should never be an issue. While the responsibility to obey parents in all things ends when a child leaves the home, the command to honor parents continues for life. Grown children should always respect and care for their parents. Parents, are you training and modeling a godly life to your children? Children, how well do you obey and honor your parents?

LESSON TWO: “Serve Wholeheartedly, As If You Were Serving the Lord.” The hard-working Christian is a testimony to their unsaved colleagues and bosses of Christ’s influence on their lives. The Christian boss shows his love for Christ by treating his workers well. Both should have the attitude of service to the Lord. Do you view your job as a ministry opportunity for serving the Lord? How do your actions and attitudes at work reflect on Jesus Christ?

¹ John MacArthur. MacArthur New Testament Commentary: Ephesians, p 305