

Eph 6:1–9 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ⁽²⁾ “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ⁽³⁾ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁽⁴⁾ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. ⁽⁵⁾ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁽⁶⁾ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁽⁷⁾ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁽⁸⁾ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁽⁹⁾ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

1. We have been seeing the evidence of the Spirit-filled life

- A. We see it in our relationship with God – a heart filled with worship and thanksgiving to him
- B. We see it in our relationship with others
 - 1). We are humble and willing to submit to one another
 - 2). The wife is willing to submit to the husband
 - 3). The husband is willing to love his wife like Christ loved the church
 - 4). Now we move to the parent-child and employee-employer relationships
 - a). How those who are being controlled by the Spirit will respond in these vital areas

I. THE SPIRIT-FILLED CHILD

Eph 6:1–3 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ⁽²⁾ “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ⁽³⁾ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

The Command: Children, obey your parents in the Lord...

1. The two-fold responsibility

- A. The Child has the responsibility to obey the authority in their lives - Parents
- B. AND the parents have the responsibility to teach them the importance of this obedience

2. The two-fold method the parents use

- A. We model submission by submitting to authority in our life
 - 1). Primarily - Our children need to see us submitting to God
 - a). If you don't respect his authority why would they?
 - b). England – couple “I'm really concerned my children don't want to go to Church”
“Well – you don't go to church. If it's not important to you why do you think it will be important to them? They're just following your example.”
 - 1a). Kids will always follow their parents' example
- B. We do this through loving discipline
 - 1). They are not going to do this naturally – they were born with a fallen nature - rebels

Question: Why is it so important we teach them to submit to authority

- A. I was amazed at how early I saw the sin nature in my son
 - 1). Disobedience - rebellion – selfishness – came naturally to him
 - a). Submission to authority did not – that had to be taught – and forced
- B. But that's not always easy to make them submit to us – so we need to see the big picture
 - 1). If they are allowed to defy our authority – they'll grow up defying the authority of others
 - a). Their teachers in school – police – EVEN God!
 - 2). Discipline is designed to teach them that the sin of disobedience is never worth it

Pr 22:15 (ESV) Folly is bound up in the heart of a child, but the rod of discipline drives it far from him.

- a). Rod doesn't always mean spanking – can be removing something like the
- b). We'd take our sons games away – amazing how powerful that was

Transition: I love the way the Bible works – it gives commands – then the logic or motivation to obey

Three Reasons the Child Should Obey Their Parents

1. First reason: It is unto the Lord

Eph 6:1 (ESV) Children, obey your parents *in the Lord...*

- A. Same reason the wife is to submit to the husband and the husband love the wife
 - 1). It is done as an act of surrender to the Lord – it is done to please him
- B. Parents this is what you need to instill into the thinking of your child
 - 1). We live our life to bring our Lord glory

2. Second reason: It is the right thing to do

Eph 6:1 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, *for this is right.*

- A. Common sense – the parent is in charge the child is not
 - 1). I see a lot of 3-4 year olds in absolute control – that is not right
 - The parent being a parent and lovingly guiding and expecting compliance is right
 - a). They are not equipped yet to make decisions – to determine what the family will do
- B. It is a way the child honors their father and mother
 - Eph 6:2 (ESV)** “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),
 - 1). Just as we honor God through our obedience – the child honors the parent through theirs
 - a). An unruly child does not bring honor to the parents
 - But that’s the parents fault – they never forced the issue – never disciplined the child

Thought: Some believe the adult child still owes their parent absolute obedience

- A. No! They owe them honor and respect but not submission
- B. My Son still comes to me at times and asks advice – I still give it
 - 1). But when I do – I realize it is his choice to follow it or not
 - 2). Parents job is for their children to get to a place of independence – think on their own

3. Third reason: Obedience to the parents brings blessing to the child

Eph 6:2–3 (ESV) “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ⁽³⁾ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

- A. God promises to bless the obedient child
 - 1). So the child that wants to be blessed by God will take this issue seriously
 - 2). The parents that want to see their child blessed will teach this issue diligently
- B. This blessing is not only during childhood it carries on into their adult life

Eph 6:2–3 (ESV) “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ⁽³⁾ *“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”*

- 1). The child who learns to respect the authority of the parent
 - is laying a solid foundation for a happier, more stable and successful life
- 2). The child that is allowed to rebel against authority may carry that through the rest of their life
 - a). That rebellion can produce a life filled with trouble – not with blessing
- C. Found this on a secular site about family health

Importance of Setting Foundations for Good Behavior

What many parents who are reluctant to discipline children may not understand is how damaging it can be for a child to lack boundaries. Without discipline, children will be deficient in the following important life skills:

They will lack self-control. They will not respect their parents or other authority figures. They will not know what is appropriate behavior. They will be willful, selfish, and generally unpleasant company.

They will not have social skills that are important for making friends such as empathy, patience, and knowing how to share. They will be more likely to engage in negative behaviors that are harmful and even potentially dangerous for themselves as well as others. They will be unhappy.

- 1). That is not the kind of life God wants for your child – that is not a life of blessing
- 2). Now do you see the logic in Scripture when it says

Pr 13:24 (ESV) Whoever spares the rod (fails to discipline) hates his son, but he who loves him is diligent to discipline him.

- a). You may think you're loving them but you may be sending them down a path of destruction – therefore that isn't loving at all

Transition: So the child is to obey the parent – the parent is to instruct them to do so

- A. And that instruction will include discipline – but what kind of discipline
 - 1). So Paul now writes to the Father
- B. Just like he protected the wife when she was commanded – by instructing the husband to love her
 - 1). Now he protects the child but instructing the father on how they are to discipline the child

II. THE SPIRIT-FILLED FATHER

Eph 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

1. Notice he is talking to the father specifically

- A. As the leader in the home this is the fathers (husbands) responsibility
 - 1). He can't just push it off onto the wife – or onto a Sunday school teacher
 - 2). The child needs the discipline of a loving father

Transition: Paul gives the Father a two-fold instruction when it comes to discipline

The Father's Discipline

1. The father is to be careful not to provoke the child to anger

Eph 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger...

- A. It is very easy to frustrate the child rather than lovingly train them
 - 1). This is done when the parent is overly critical – child feels they can never please you
 - a). This can cause them to throw their hands up in despair and quit – forget it

Col 3:21 (NLT) Fathers, don't aggravate your children. If you do, they will become discouraged and quit trying.
 - 2). It can be done when the child is crushed by a militaristic set of rules
 - a). The parents never trust them – or are always afraid they may get hurt

Everything is seen as too risky – they can't do anything their friends do
 - 3). It can be done by being too hands off – it looks like you don't care

This kind of parenting frustrates the child and can spurn rebellion

- A. They can't wait to get away to spread their wings and when they taste freedom – go wild
 - 1). That's because there's been no discipline or too much discipline
- B. There's a balance isn't there – protecting our kids but not squeezing so tightly they're provoked
 - 1). Not easy – why this is in the section of being Spirit-filled – takes his control

Thought: Let me comfort some of you who did well but your kid still rebelled – it happens

- A. I want to give you some grace – our sin went south for a couple of years
 - 1). I beat myself up – almost stepped out of ministry – was talked out of it by other Pastors
- B. It's interesting – now he works with kids and uses all he learned from us

- 1). He thanks us for how we raised him
- 2). Even when he was backslidden he couldn't shake the thought of what he knew about God
 - a). What he had seen in our lives – how we believed – we are hearing all this now
 - b). But for a couple of years I really doubted myself – what could I have done different?
- 3). If you have children all you can do is your best – trusting the Lord
 - a). Do what you can to show them what walking with God looks like
Do what you can to show them how true faith acts
 - 1a). I've learned those things stick with them
Even though it might not seem like it for a time

Transition: Rather than frustrating them what are we to do

2. The Father is to bring the child up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

Eph 6:4 (ESV) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, *but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*

- A. The Father's discipline always has a goal – set by the instruction of the Lord = The Word
- B. The Word tells you that the discipline is always to be done in love and for the child's good
 - 1). Discipline in v. 4 is the same word used for the Lord's discipline in our life
Heb 12:5–6 (ESV) And have you forgotten the exhortation that addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the *discipline* of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. ⁽⁶⁾ For the Lord *disciplines* the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”
 - a). So God has modeled how to discipline and why we discipline
 - 2). His discipline in our life is NEVER out of anger – frustration
 - a). It is always loving and for our good – for our training – for our advancement
 - b). Angry discipline will never produce positive results
Jas 1:20 (ESV) for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God.
 - 1a). All it will do is produce frustration and anger in return
 - 2a). It will produce an unhealthy fear
That leads to the obedience of a slave not a son who wants to honor the parent

Transition: So the child is responsible to obey the parent out of a desire to please God and honor them

- A. The Father is to instruct his child about all this – how important it is
 - 1). Why they should want to do it – to bring glory to God – and to bring blessing into their life
 - 2). When they choose to ignore this the Father must discipline them
 - a). To teach that sin and rebellion is never worth it
 - 1a). That pleasing their flesh doesn't bring about blessing – but obedience does
 - b). But that discipline must never be from anger – always from love and for their good
- B. That brings us to the Spirit-filled employee – then employer
 - 1). It is speaking of bondservants and masters
But the modern-day application would be for employees and employers (bosses)

III. THE SPIRIT-FILLED EMPLOYEE

Eph 6:5–8 (ESV) Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁽⁶⁾ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁽⁷⁾

rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁽⁶⁾ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

1. A radical perspective on work

- A. We are to work as unto the Lord not as unto man
 - 1). We work for him - he is sovereign and he got us that job! He is our primary boss

How the Spirit-Filled Employee Is to Work

1. The Christian employee is to respect their employer

Eph 6:5 (ESV) Bondservants, obey your earthly masters *with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart*, as you would Christ,

- A. This isn't a cringing type of fear – it is a respect – a genuine desire to work in a way that honors them
- B. The key is – our work for them is to be the same as it would be for Christ

- 1). This is the way the believer is to do everything in their life – it's all for him – for his glory

Col 3:17 (NLT) *And whatever you do or say, let it be as a representative of the Lord Jesus*, all the while giving thanks through him to God the Father.

Col 3:22-23 (NIV) *Slaves, obey your earthly masters in everything*; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to win their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. (23) *Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men,*

- a). You say you're a Christian the boss expects more from you than others – he should

2. The Christian employee is to work to please the Lord not man

- A. People pleasers have a strange work ethic

Eph 6:6–7 (ESV) not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers...

- 1). Eye service is working hard when the employee is looking
But your surfing the web – facebook – twitter – youtube when he's not
- 2). The solution is to remember that God's eyes are always on you – you're working to please him

Eph 6:6–7 (ESV) not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, *but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁽⁷⁾ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,*

- a). The boss isn't the most important person who is seeing what you do – God is
 - 1a). You choose to work to please him

Transition: Work in a way that pleases him and you'll be fine – look at v. 8

3. The faithful worker will be rewarded by God

Eph 6:8 (ESV) knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

- A. The promise is – when you work for the Lord – for his glory – to please him
 - 1). He will pay you with blessing
 - 2). That might be through a promotion – a raise – joy – peace etc.
 - a). Whatever it is – it will be worth it – God pays well
- B. The Christian principle is – live to bring glory to God and he will take care of all things
 - 1). Be a man-pleaser – an eye-service employee and God can remove the blessings so you learn

Transition: Now we have the typical balance

- A. Wives submit to your husbands – balance – Husbands love them so that submission is easy
- B. Children submit to your parents – balance – Father's love them properly so they can do that
- C. Now employees submit to your employers – balance – employers don't use that to be harsh

III. THE SPIRIT-FILLED EMPLOYER

Eph 6:9 (ESV) Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

1. Masters do the same to them

- A. As servants (employees) are to work as unto the Lord
The Master (boss) is to rule over the work force as unto the Lord
 - 1). How the Lord leads him or her is the model how they are to lead

2. Stop your threatening

- A. Don't be harsh with your employees – don't dominate them with fear
Why? Eph 6:9 (ESV) ...knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.
 - 1). Remember you are supervising God's children
 - a). And he cares for them just as much as he cares for you

CONCLUSION

1. A long look at the Spirit-filled life – six weeks

- A. We've seen what being Spirit-filled is – not tingles – but submission to him in every area
- B. We've seen what the evidence of being filled by him is – seen in our relationships
 - 1). With God – we will have a heart filled with worship and gratitude
 - 2). To one another – there will be a humility that allows us to get along
 - 3). The wife will be willing to submit to the husband
The husband will be willing to love the wife as Christ loved the church
 - 4). The child will be willing to submit to the parent's authority
The parents will be willing to raise the child in godly ways – teaching – training - disciplining
 - a). That discipline will always be from love – following God's example
 - 5). The employee will submit to the boss – working as unto the Lord
The boss will submit to God in the way they treat the employess
 - a). Realizing they are God's children – since he loves them – they need to treat them correctly

2. Next week – be praying – excited about where we are going

- A. We will be looking at the spiritual armor that is so necessary for the victorious Christian life

