

STUDY GUIDE 11

EPHESIANS 6:1-9



Christian Relationships: Parent/Child, Employee/Employer

As you start this study, ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand what God has said through Paul.

DAY 1

Read Ephesians 6:1-9 three times.

1. In verse 1, what are children commanded to do? In whom? Why?
2. In verse 2 what else is commanded? Using a dictionary, describe the difference between “obey” and “honor”.
3. According to verse 3, what are the benefits or rewards of “honoring your parents”?

TO DIG DEEPER: Read Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16. Where did Paul draw his command from? Now read Matthew 15:3-9. How had the tradition of the elders distorted this command? What did Jesus say about that? Note: verses 1-3 and Matthew 15 show that God’s moral law was not set aside or nullified by Christ or Paul. Rather, Jesus actually expanded it’s meaning as most thoroughly presented throughout the book of Matthew.

DAY 2

1. In verse 4, what are fathers not to do? Instead, what are they to do?
2. The word “exasperate” or “provoke to anger” is used only here and in Romans 10:19. It is the Greek word: parorgizete. See also Colossians 3:21. What does Colossians say such actions cause in children? What are some ways parents provoke their children to anger?
3. Read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. Describe what training and instructing children in the Lord involves.

DAY 3

1. Both in the Old Testament and the New Testament regulations for societal situations such as slavery and divorce were given. These regulations do not encourage or condone such situations but are given as practical ways of dealing with the reality of the day. In Matthew 19:8 Jesus states why these situations existed. What do they stem from?
2. Verses 5-8 command slaves to obey earthly masters. In verse 5, with what three attitudes are they to do this? They are to do this as if they were obeying whom?
3. In verse 6, how are slaves not to obey their masters? But like what?

DAY 4

1. Verse 7 says to serve _____, as if you were serving _____.
2. Verse 8 tells the slaves if they obey their masters as stated in verses 6-7, what do they know will result?
3. Read Colossians 3:22-25. What is said that helps you further understand these verses in Ephesians?

DAY 5

1. What does verse 9 tell Masters to do? Not to do? Why?
2. See Colossians 3:25-4:1. How do these verses help you understand Ephesians 6:9?
3. Read again Ephesians 6:5-9. Explain how these verses apply in an employee/employer situation.

TO DIG DEEPER: In our study of Ephesians, often the verses cross-reference to verses in Colossians. Both books were written during the same imprisonment of Paul in Rome, probably pretty close together. Read the Book of Colossians (4 chapters). Now reread Ephesians. Note the verses or thoughts or topics that are similar. (If your Bible has a cross-reference column, this will help you note verse for verse.

DAY 6

Application 1

Children are to obey their parents while under their parents care. When a child matures, his/her relationship to parents changes – as stated in Ephesians 5:31. But, a child's responsibility to love and respect and even provide for the parents lasts for life.

Think about your relationship to your parents: How do you honor your parents? Are you a model to your children in this?

If you are raising children, what would you like to do to improve training and instructing them in the Lord? (Reread Deuteronomy 6:4-9). What do you do that you need to change so you don't provoke them to anger or discourage them?

Application 2

If you are employed, working a job, how do you do your job? Do you do your best all the time? Do you do your job wholeheartedly? With enthusiasm? As if you are serving the Lord? What one thing will you change this week?

How do you treat your employer, boss or supervisor? Do you treat them with respect, honor their authority, with sincerity? What will you change this week in this area?

Employers, bosses, supervisors: How do you treat your employees or those you manage? Do you treat them with respect? Value their work? Not threaten them or show favoritism? What will you change this week?

The commands to respect parents and employers do not come with qualifiers such as "If they are...." This is very hard to do in some situations. But, with God all things are possible. With the Holy Spirit living in us, He can bring this about in our lives.

Spend time in prayer today. Confess your failure in these areas, ask God to help you serve Him in your relationships in your family and at work.