

Ephesians 6:1-9

Good morning and thank you so much for joining us. Would you please turn in your bibles to Ephesians 6? Well if you can believe it this is the last chapter of this incredible book, and once we finish Ephesians in a couple of weeks, we'll then go back to the OT and study the book of Nehemiah.

Over the last couple of weeks we've seen Gods design for marriage, and the role He wants husbands and wives to play.

And now the theme of God's order continues, but the subject matter changes as Paul moves on to apply the principles of spirit filled submission to 2 other challenging relationships. Parenthood and employment.

Though these 2 relationships exist in different realms of life, the principles of submission and responsible leadership are the same as they are in marriage. In fact we can apply these principles of harmony to all kinds of relationships- in the church, society, government, wherever. Humility and grace always seem to be in short supply.

We're gonna study verses 1-9 of chapter 6, and the title of this morning's message is Basic Obedience

Lets pray

Have you noticed the entire family structure has been under assault for decades, even centuries? Ever wonder why? See Karl Marx understood, Communists understood, Satan understands that once you break down the marriage, you break

down the family. Breakdown the family and you break down the culture. You break down the culture, you breakdown society, you will destroy a nation.

Lets read 1-3 **Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: 3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”**[fn]

And what the Bible repeatedly tells us parents is that when we have little kids in our home, we actually have little soldiers that we’re training. Because whether we like it or they like it, we are in a war. There is a war for their souls. There is a war going on for our families and isn't just in the media. It isn't just what we see in the physical. All of that is inspired by principalities and powers and rulers of darkness, the spiritual war that we’ll begin to study next week.

How many people here served in the military?

**SHOW PIC** What is the very first thing any soldier learns to do? It’s to obey orders. And God says to children, you must obey, honor and respect your parents. These are the first things anybody in the military's gonna learn to do. **CLOSE PIC**

You can't be successful on any battlefield without first learning to obey orders. And parents we’re raising little soldiers, and listen they are going to be in a battle. Just look at how our nation has changed in just 20 years. Imagine what's gonna be confronting the little ones in our CK ministry in 20 more years. We need to make sure they’re ready.

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Now it's interesting when you go through the Scripture, there are really only four verses that are directly pointed towards children. There are lots of verses about parenting, but regarding speaking directly to children, there are only 4 verses, and this is one of them.

The 5th commandment is directed towards children **Exodus 20:12**  
"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you  
Deuteronomy chapter 5 repeats this.

Finally, the 4th **Colossians 3 20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.**

Those are the 4 verses directed towards children, and did you notice what is asked of children when God speaks directly to them? It's obedience and honor.

The Bible doesn't say kids, you need to get a handle on Calvinism versus Arminianism. It doesn't say you gotta get your eschatology nailed down, and know if you're a pre tribulation or mid tribulation or post trib. No when the Bible speaks directly to children, its simple-it says honor and obey.

Which means there is no greater behavior that parents can communicate to their children than obedience. There is no greater lesson that you can put into their lives than this sense of responsibility to obey.

Because listen. If you're little ones won't obey you, whom they can see, how will they ever obey their heavenly father who they can't see? THEY WON'T

Today our society is so upside down we're telling parents they need to obey their children. Isn't that insane? Tragically lots of parents buy into this because they think it'll make their child happy and then the parents can be their kids buddies.

It's a destructive lie, and it breaks down God's order.

We must never forget, all of the problems in the world today were born from disobedience. Genesis chapter 3 tells us how Adam and Eve disobeyed God, sin entered into the picture, and we've all been the subjects of that ever since.

Make no mistake, the Kingdom of God is an order, it's not a democracy. If you sit back and think about that for a while, you'll realize that you're glad the Kingdom of God is an order. Because if it were a democracy, we probably wouldn't be saved.

Think about it-I don't think anybody would have voted to save us. I don't think anybody would have voted to die on the cross for us. Aren't you glad that there's a single throne and that the Lord rules over all? And because He's God, He's created order for our lives.

The world we live in is out of order. That's why there's all this blame shifting. That's why the Democrats blame the Republicans and the Republicans blame the Democrats. Faculty blames the

students, and the students blame the faculty. Employers blame the employees and the employees blame the employers.

There's all this disorder and it's a breeding ground for hatred. And it's all borne out of disobedience.

We live in an age where the Bible warns us **2 Timothy 3:1 But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: 2 For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, 3 unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, 4 traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God,**

One of the things that would characterize the end of the age is disobedience to parents.

But God puts it here in regards to children, the greatest thing that you can instill in your child is obedience, to obey, to do that which is right.

This is so critical because when obedience is learned, it's going to play out in all their life. It's gonna come to play in the classroom. It's gonna come to play with the police. It's gonna come to play with red lights and speeding. It's gonna come to play with the IRS. It's learning to bring their will into subjection to what is right.

**2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:** See there comes an age when it isn't just

obedience, but it's obedience with the right attitude. Obedience is the action, Honor is the attitude that God asks for.

See there's an attitude God wants in obedience. And we need to look no further than Jesus who demonstrated this obedience and honor for us to His earthly parents!

Remember in Luke 2, Jesus was 12 years old, and His parents lost Him for 3 days

And **Luke 2 51, Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.**

Jesus was subject to His parents, and listen, He was the only kid who really was smarter than His parents.

Never forget Jesus was subject to His parents. You can hear his mom Mary right 'Yeshua, I want you to be home by the time it's dark.' Jesus didn't say 'hey lady, I'm the one who made the moon. I'll just keep the sun up a few more hours today so I can play more.' He didn't do that.

Listen, the Bible doesn't say to honor your parents because they're perfect. It says to honor them because they are the authorities that God has placed in your life.

Growing up my mom was a mentally ill alcoholic. She was at times just insane in some of the things she did and we experienced as kids. We never went to church, rarely left the

house actually, but this verse is the first verse I ever remember hearing as a kid.

See my older bro was the middle child. And my mom treated him and abused him the worst. And I'll never forget, I was prolly 6 or 7, my brother prolly 11 or so. And before bed in our room one night he got on his knees to pray. And I asked him 'why do you let mom treat you like that.' She hit my brother so hard in the face once it knocked a tooth loose-I told my mom she ever laid a hand on me I'd knock her out.

But here's what my brother, at 11 years of age said to me nearly 40 years ago-'the bible says honor your father and your mother.' 40 years ago and it's still stuck with me.

Parents-you have an obligation to teach these words to your kids, to teach them obedience, and honor. You can't say 'oh I honor God, and I love God' and not obey or honor your parents.

Now I understand that there are situations where there are abusive parents. I understand that there are many of you here that grew up hating a father's guts, wishing that he would die. Or hating a mother. I don't have fast and easy answers. Chances are when they were a kid, somebody abused them more often than not.

Listen, here's the deal. You can spend your whole life angry, wondering why you grew up in an abusive situation. Or you can realize, wait a minute, I'm sitting in church, and I know the Lord.

Better to have grown up in an abusive situation where my heart was broken and something was lacking, and in time I cried out to God to fill that emptiness. Better that than to grow up in a perfect house and never know the truth and perish forever.

3 “that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”<sup>[fn]</sup> Normally children who obey their parents end up avoiding many pitfalls that would otherwise shorten their lives.

Learning to do what's right as a child is going to benefit them the whole rest of their lives.

Remember, there are no perfect parents. There was only one perfect father that was God, and Adam still rebelled against Him.

4 And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord. This is a responsibility for fathers. They mustn't neglect their responsibility to teach and be a spiritual example for their children. It's not a responsibility that should be left to the mother or the Sunday School.

Training is the same word translated chastening in **Hebrews 12:7**  
**If<sup>[fn]</sup> you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected us, and we paid them respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened us as**



seemed best to them, but He for our profit, that we may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Training here in Ephesians takes place through corrective and proper, appropriate discipline.

In 1946 Dr Benjamin Spock wrote a book that spread like wildfire and changed parenting behavior all across America. In his book he told parents not to spank their kids. So much of America listened, and since then we've produced the most violent generations of kids that's ever lived, without paddling.

Proverbs 13:24 He who spares his rod hates his son,  
But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Prov 23 13 Do not withhold correction from a child,  
For if you beat him with a rod, he will not die.  
14 You shall beat him with a rod,  
And deliver his soul from hell.[fn]

The Bible teaches that physical discipline is appropriate, beneficial, and necessary.

Do not misunderstand—this is no means advocating child abuse. A child should never be disciplined physically to the extent that it causes actual physical damage. According to the Bible, though,

the appropriate and restrained physical discipline of children is a good thing and contributes to the well-being and correct upbringing of the child. But the parent must discipline the proper way, not crushing the spirit of the child.

Kim and I would tell our kids 'obey right away, all the way, with a happy heart'. We didn't ever count to 5 or 10. Because when I say something, it needs to happen then. Because when God says something, He wants immediate obedience. And whenever we spanked our kids we held them, hugged them, explained why we spanked them, and made sure they knew we loved them.

You don't beat them, or abuse them, or even belittle them. You can't spank 'em at 16 either. The goal with discipline is to change the behavior.

The word admonition in v4 has more of the idea of teaching — both training and discipline are necessary.

Listen parents, dad's especially. You set that standard with your kids because one day we're going to stand in front of the Lord and realize our kids were only on loan. They're not ours.

And we're going to give account to Almighty God for the way we've raised them, and disciplined them, and the standards we have held in the home, how we've trained them.

**Deut 6:4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!<sup>[fn]</sup> 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.**

6 “And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.

And listen dads, kids develop their first opinion of almighty God based on how your kids view you because you are the first male authority in your child's life. So if you're irritable and unapproachable, or distant, or too busy, that's how your child will start off believing how God is. But if you're kind, and loving, and merciful, that's how your child will view God.

What a responsibility we have!

Now as we move to this next section, we're gonna talk about bondservants and masters

Slaves played a significant part in those days in that society. It's been estimated by some that ½ of the Roman empire population was slaves-60m by some estimates.

How slave owners treated their slaves could vary greatly, depending on the temperament of the owner and the performance of the slave. But in that culture, not all slaves were treated badly. Many became like members of the family in which they served—some caring for and practically raising the owner's children.

Some slaves could own property, have their own slaves, and even obtain other employment. Under Roman law, a slave could even be set free as a reward for hard work.

Now at first glance this section may seem outdated, however we're about to see that this is applicable to every Christian, for whatever task we have before us.

Tragically, one of the trends we see in our society is the lack of people who are willing to work. But we must remember, God created work and created us with a disposition for work! Before man sinned he was given meaningful work- Adam and Eve were assigned the task of tending the garden.

Labor is our God-sanctioned duty. In fact, the Bible teaches **2 Thessalonians 3:10 For even when we were with you, we commanded you this: If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat.** Work is the will of God.

5-6

**5 Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,** what this is telling us is wherever we are, whatever we do, we need to do with all of our heart, as unto Christ.

Because it's our mission field. And whatever it is you may do, it's no less sacred than standing up here and talking in this little Q-tip here.

This doesn't make me more spiritual than you driving a nail, or closing a sale, or watching your grandkids. This is not more

sacred than that. The issue isn't being in the ministry, the issue is the ministry being in you.

On the day of Pentecost, the believer didn't enter the ministry. The ministry entered the believer when the HS fell on the believer. That's what this section is all about, being filled with the Spirit in all of these situations as a husband, as a wife, as children as parents, as bondservants of Christ

Do you remember when Jesus came to the Jordan river to be baptized? **Matthew 3 16 When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He[fn] saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."** How much of what we call ministry had Jesus done at this point? He never did a miracle. He never preached a sermon, and the father was well pleased. Never forget, Jesus spent the vast majority of his life in the private sector!

So don't ever think what you do on the day in and day out doesn't matter, because it does matter to God.

**7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,** Again notice the emphasis-we do our service as to the Lord, not to men.

**Colossians 3:23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for[fn] you serve the Lord Christ.**

Parking lot story.

8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. This is a reminder that although your earthly boss may sign your paycheck - your ultimate reward is from the Lord!

It reminds me of the story of a Korean man who was a Christian. He was also cook on a US Navy vessel. And the sailors onboard always played pranks on him. One day they snuck into his cabin and coated his toilet seat with Vaseline. When he came out of the bathroom they roared with laughter. The Korean fellow took it all in stride. All he said was, "Praise the Lord".

On another occasion they rigged the kitchen door so when he opened it a bucket of water poured down on his head. Again, he shrugged it off, "Praise the Lord"

After several other stunts, and the same response, the sailors grew convicted. They approached the man and apologized. They promised to never do it again

But they wanted to know how this cook had endured such treatment, and yet still maintained a joyful attitude? Well, before the cook answered, he wanted to be sure he understood correctly... "No more Vaseline on the doorknob?" No. "No more water on my head?" No... He said, "Okay, well no more spitting in your soup!"

The point of the story is that it's possible for a person to hustle, and do a good job, and seem to have a good attitude - yet be working from the wrong motivation.

We'll end our study in verse 9

**9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also<sup>[fn]</sup> is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.**

God's not impressed with job titles. It doesn't matter if your name is on the building, or if your name is on your shirt. Our master is in heaven, and we should do all things in a way that's honoring to Him.

Since becoming a pastor I now realize how limited pastors are in reaching people on a personal level. In daily conversation, when someone finds out I'm a pastor they tend to clam up - they stop talking honestly and openly. They have a hard time relating to a pastor.

That's why the people who win mechanics to Christ are usually the Christian mechanics who let their light shine... The folks who win architects to Christ are the Christian architects who are living out their faith...

Without a doubt the most pressing need in the world today is for Christians to do their work "as to Christ." By doing so, we can attract people's attention, and stir their interest through the excellence of our work... Then we can use the platform we've earned to lead thirsty hearts to the living water.

And remember the ultimate master we serve. It's king Jesus!  
You know money is a horrible master to serve  
Alcohol-a terrible master  
But our Lord is a wonderful master. So no matter what you're  
doing, do it all for the one who bled and died for you!