

Christian Households

Ephesians 6:1-9

Christian households provide stability for a society. Christian households should be structured and should operate according to Yahweh's plan. God's plan involves discipline and order. Discipline and order are made possible by voluntary submission.

Topic: In Ephesians 5:22-33, the primary participants of a Christian household—a husband and wife—are admonished to follow the example of Christ. Wives are to submit to their husbands, and husbands are to love their wives. Now, the focus shifts to the other participants in the household. Children are to obey their parents, fathers are to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord, slaves are to obey their masters, and masters are to be kind.

- Children are admonished to obey. Why is it that children never need instruction on how to disobey? Even so, what are the ways our society encourages children to disobey?
- According to 6:1-3, what are the three motivating rationales for obedience?
- Parents are not to provoke their children to anger, but to bring them up in the discipline and instruction in the Lord. Why is discipline such a touchy subject today?
- What are the ways to apply Deuteronomy 6:4-7 in a modern context?
- The Bible mentions slavery. Does this mean God is okay with slavery?
- How does the Bible and Christianity undermine slavery?
- Some Christian households had slaves. Most people work and have bosses? How does 6:5-8 apply to modern employees?
- Read Romans 6:16 and 1 Corinthians 7:22-23. All are slaves to someone/something. Earthly slaves can be more mature in Christ and His church than earthly masters. How is this possible?

Association: Our upbringing is one of the most shaping aspects of our lives and faith.

- What sort of upbringing did you have? Were you raised in a Christian household?
- What sort of upbringing do your children experience?
- Has it ever been difficult to work with "good will as to the Lord, and not to men" (6:7)?
- God had no partiality in Him? Do you have any in you? Explain.

Guidance: We all can feel guilt or resentment regarding the household in which we were raised.

- How can we overcome that guilt or resentment?
- How can we accept the fact that our children make their own choices and that those choices do not always reflect the way we raised them?
- What are the best ways that we can bring our children or grandchildren up in the instruction of the Lord? What are your best tips or techniques?
- How can we better be slaves to Christ and to righteousness than to sin?]
- Give your best advice for ceasing to show partiality.

Pray with and for one another.