



**Title: Ephesians - Family and Work**

**Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-9**

**Date: 03262023**

**Bible Version: NKJV**

**BOTTOM LINE: The Word of God has everyday purpose and application.**

**Children (6:1-3)**

**Vs. 1**

**Children-** Paul is addressing those who are not adults. This tells us that children had a place in the congregation or the scriptures were being shared with them in a meaningful way.

**Obey your parents-** They were given a simple command, and that was to obey their parents. Children have a responsibility to obey their parents. Likewise, parents have a responsibility to train up and teach their children how to obey.

**Disobedience does not need to be taught, but obedience does need to be taught.**

*It is essential that a parent teach the child obedience, so that the child will grow up knowing how to obey God even when he doesn't understand everything or doesn't want to. -David Guzik*

**In the Lord,-** Paul gives us two reasons why a child should obey their parents. First and foremost, it is part of being a believer. Being a Christian means that we have functional relationships with others around us. For children, one of those is having a parent.

*When a person becomes a Christian, he is not released from normal obligations of life. If anything, his faith in Christ ought to make him a better child in the home. - Warren Wiersbe*

**For this is right-** Secondly, it is simply just right to obey our parents.

**Obedience comes from a heart centered on the Lord. Obedience can come with strings attached if it is to someone other than the Lord.**

**Vs. 2**

**Honor your father and mother-** Paul now goes on to say that we are to honor our father and mother. This idea comes from Deuteronomy 5:16. How this looks can change over the seasons of life but the principle still stands. Honoring our parents means to show them respect, love and to care for them.

*No one outgrows the requirement to honor mother and father. - Tony Evans*

**There is a blessing for the child that is obedient and honors their parents.**

**Vs. 3**

**That it may be well with you-** Bringing honor to our father and mother provides us with the opportunity to have stability in our relationship with them. It will also give us an opportunity to learn from them, perhaps avoiding dangerous consequences.

**And you may live long on the earth-** The idea here is to live out your days fully. We can live full days when there is Christ centered peace between us and others.

**Practical ways to honor your parents:**

1. Be understanding of them.\
2. Ask for their advice.
3. Seek their forgiveness.
4. Respect their legacy.

**Fathers (6:4)**

**Vs. 4**

**And you, Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath-** Paul now turns his attention to Fathers and the first of two responsibilities that we have. This first responsibility is to not provoke them to wrath.

### **Practical ways to not provoke your children:**

1. Don't say one thing and do another.
2. Don't just blame them. You must also praise them.
3. Don't show favoritism.
4. Don't make promises that you can't keep.
5. Don't minimize problems that are important to children.

*If left to themselves, children will be rebels, so it is necessary for the parents to train their children. - Warren Wiersbe*

**Bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord-** The idea is that a Christian husband is to not only nourish his wife (Ephesians 5:29) but also be a father who nourishes his children. We can use actions and our words to do this.

*This is a responsibility for fathers. They must not neglect their responsibility to teach and be a spiritual example for their children. It is not a responsibility that should be left to the mother or the Sunday School. - David Guzik*

### **Practical ways to nourish your children:**

1. Talk about the things of the Lord.
2. Explore who they are in Jesus.
3. Help them to discover their divine purpose and gifting.
4. Do life with them.

*It is not enough to nurture the children physically by providing food, shelter, and clothing. He must also nurture them emotionally and spiritually. - Warren Wiersbe*

**If you don't value making the right choices, then your children will never make it a priority.**

### **Servants/Employees (6:5-8)**

**Vs. 5**

**Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters...as to Christ-** In today's context, this would speak to Christian employees. We

are to be obedient to those we work for. It should be done as if we are working for Christ.

### **Vs. 6**

**Not with eyeservice-** We are to work hard all the time, not just when our boss is looking.

**Doing the will of God from the heart-** Paul says that even when we are working for someone else, we are to do the will of God from our heart. The heart must be the birthplace of our motives.

### **Vs. 7**

**As to the Lord, and not to men-** All that we do as Christ followers is unto the Lord. Paul is reminding us that our witness is on the line.

*Grace makes us the servants of God while still we are the servants of men: It enables us to do the business of earth: It sanctifies the common duties of life by showing us how to perform them in the light of heaven. - C.H. Spurgeon*

### **Vs. 8**

**He will receive the same from the Lord-** We can do our duties as employees and serve others knowing that God will not allow our hard work to go unnoticed or without reward.

### **Practical ways to be a great Christian employee:**

1. Remember that you are ultimately serving God, not man.
2. Always be honest and never cheat your employer with your time.
3. Our work should come from a pure motive to serve the Lord.
4. Work with integrity.

### **Masters/Employers (6:9)**

### **Vs. 9**

**And you, masters, do the same things to them-** Employers have a role to play in honoring the Lord. They are to operate in a way that pleases God. They must not be harsh or threatening. Paul reminds us that some of us may have a functional relationship that has employees under employers,

however that does not make employees less valuable. We all bear the image of God.

*God wants to be an integral part of your daily nine-to-five. For Christian employees and employers to access their heavenly blessings, they must bring a heavenly perspective to bear on the job. - Tony Evans*

**Three ways that we can make the scriptures stick in our day to day lives:**

1. Always approach the scriptures with a teachable heart.
2. Read the scriptures often.
3. Ask others to hold you accountable.



# 3D Guide

**DO.**

**BOTTOM LINE:** The Word of God has everyday purpose and application.



## DIG DEEPER

1. What does this study reveal to you about God?
2. What does this study reveal to you about yourself?
3. Based on this, what changes do you need to make?
4. What is your prayer for today?



## DISCUSS.

1. What are your thoughts on the topics presented in this block of scripture?
2. What are some challenges with doing what Paul suggests in this block of scripture?
3. What are some ways you can apply this scripture to your daily life?



**DO.**

Anytime you read God's word you have to put things into perspective. You also have to realize that the terms, not words, have meanings. As a group re-read the scriptures that was studied. Try the Amplified Version and compare that to the NJKV, NIV, ESV, or NASB. Pick a few words and have a group member look that word up on [blueletterbible.com](http://blueletterbible.com) or with their app.