

# Ephesians 6:1-9 – 9 October 2022

## “Mimicking Jesus Within Our Role Pt 2 of 2 – Other Roles”

### Introduction

\*Ephesians Outlined

\*Chap 1-3 – **The Position of the Christian**

\*Chap 4-6 – **The Practice of the Christian**

\*Chap 4 began speaking of our practice as Christians as that of having *vibrant unity* within the Church

\*Chap 5's 1<sup>st</sup> half looked at our role-model, Jesus, having us *mimic Jesus* by power of the Holy Spirit

\*Chap 5:21-6:9 now looks at mimicking Jesus by fulfilling your *roles in family & society*

\*Finishing Chap 5 we saw the first set of roles; that of husband and wife in marriage

**\*Today we look at the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> sets of roles in which to mimic the character of the God that indwells us**

## 2<sup>nd</sup> relationship to mimic Jesus in is Children & Fathers (Chap 6:1-4)

Read Vs 1 – Children

1. The built-in assumption of children obeying their parents is that parents are intentionally TEACHING their children
  - a. Parents have only a few short years to give the children what they need 3-dimensionally
2. Two reasons given to obey father & mother
  - a. “In the Lord” – It’s your duty before God
  - b. “This is right” – According to nature
3. “In the Lord” is also rightly interpreted to mean “as far as you’re asked to do things that are good”

Read Vs 2-3

1. So it goes beyond obeying, the whole way into honoring them
  - a. Ever had a child begrudgingly obey?
    - i. That’s not honoring father & mother
2. The promise attached was that of long life
  - a. Read Deut 5:16

3. There's no reason to think these principles end at a certain age
  - a. Re-Read Chap 5:31 – We leave the role of under father & mother when married but still seek to honor them
4. Don't try honoring God with you lips while our hearts are far from Him
  - a. Honoring parents isn't a rigid rule but it's an enduring principle

### Read Vs 4 – *Fathers*

1. Read Col 3:21 – 'discouraged' = to have a broken spirit or to be disheartened
2. How could you stimulate them to anger?
  - a. Give rules that are impossible to follow
  - b. Give rules without a relationship with you
  - c. Give them rules w/ unnecessary harshness
    - i. What right have we to ask our children to have discipline, when we ourselves do not?

3. Notice, we need both nurture AND admonition
  - a. Nurture – instruction & training
    - i. Read Heb 12:11 - same word as chastening
    - ii. The idea of corrective discipline
    - iii. Read Prov 13:24
  - b. Admonition – rebuke & warning
    - i. This is the idea of teaching & learning
  - c. Both *nurture* & *admonition* are used to describe the Scriptures
    - i. II Tim 3:16, I Cor 10:11
    - ii. Easily seen that fathers are the ones to train their children in the Word (Deut 6:7)
4. We have a wonderful principle in the scriptures to hold on to in Prov 22:6 – (Train up a child...)
5. Why doesn't the Lord here speak to **Mothers?**
  - a. Mothers already have a nature mothering instinct
  - b. Fathers are the head of the family & need to take this as an active role for themselves

## **3<sup>rd</sup> relationship to mimic Jesus in is Employee & Employer (Chap 6:5-9)**

### Read Vs 5 - Employees

1. “With singleness” = without hypocrisy or two-facedness - generously
2. Give same godly character & effort on the job that you would serving in the Church or for Jesus
3. “As unto Christ” – we’re either closing or opening chances to share Christ by our work ethic

### Read Vs 6-7

1. It’s not “just a job” to disrespect. It’s God’s provision to you for living
2. Don’t be a hypocrite in doing the job by not supporting the cause whole-heartedly.
  - a. If you’re in a job you can’t biblically support – pray & He’ll move you into another
    - i. Naaman had a conflict
    - ii. Christian School I worked in collapsed b/c they forsook God, so God moved me on

## Read Vs 8

1. Read Col 3:22-25 – we’ll receive inheritance
  - a. As employees, we’re working for another man’s legacy & wealth
  - b. But God says that our earthly labor is storing up for us eternal rewards!
2. “Bond or free” – This principle of service applies whether it’s standard employment or forced labor
  - a. Joseph didn’t choose his employment in Potiphar’s house

## Read Vs 9 - *Employers*

1. “Do the same to them” – work hard & honest for your employees as well
  - a. Inequality in role, yet equality in character
2. 3 guiding principles here
  - a. “Forbearing threatening” – Don’t be haughty & vicious (word means ‘*a menace*’)
  - b. “Know you have a Master” – Be humble under the authority of God
  - c. Mimic God in not being bias - Execute equality in judgement

3. Read Col 4:1 – Not just equal, but also what is right and fair
  - a. Read Prov 11:1 – Don't cheat in business

## Conclusion

So, how are we doing w/ showing Jesus to the world?

1. **Children**
  - a. It's our duty before God to honor our parents with respect & deference
  - b. Goes beyond obedience into honor
2. **Fathers**
  - a. It's your duty & honor to teach them how everything in life is centered on Jesus
3. **Employees**
  - a. Are you role-modeling God by your service?
4. **Employers**
  - a. Are you role-modeling God by your leadership?

