

Sermon Supplement

Ephesians 6:1-9

Everyday Households that Change the World

UNDERSTANDING THE PASSAGE

1. **Main Idea of the Passage:** Paul continues his instructions for the Christian household, now encouraging parents, children, bondservants, and masters to think and conduct themselves as believers in their respective roles. He highlights the importance of knowing the Lord and pleasing him as the primary motivation for each member of the household in fulfilling their role obligations.
2. **Melodic Line of the Letter:** The two become one for His glory. God the Father, through God the Son, by the power and presence of God the Spirit, is making a multi-ethnic people for the purpose of His glory, based in his eternal plan, in this final age.

KEY WORDS

1. **Unite** (*anakephalaioō*) **Eph. 1:10** – to bring everything together in Christ; to unite under one head, which is Christ; the headship of Jesus is a theme that undergirds the rest of Ephesians, including 6:1-9.
2. **Discipline** (*paideia*) **v. 4** – the act of providing guidance for responsible living; educating in culture and wisdom; for the Christian, to bring everything under the banner of Jesus and see through the lens of Scripture; see also, Prv. 8:10; Heb. 12:5.
3. **Instruction** (*nouthesia*) **v. 4** – counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct; to warn or admonish; common in Proverbs (e.g., 1:10; 3:31; 5:8); see also, 1 Cor. 10:11.

STRUCTURE/OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE

- I. Children and Parents (**vv. 1-4**)
 - A. Paul's Command to Children (**vv. 1-3**)
 1. The way for children to obey (**v. 1a**)
 2. The reason for children to obey (**vv. 1b-2**)
 3. The promise for children who obey (**v. 3**)
 - B. Paul's Command to Fathers (**v. 4**)
 1. How not to raise your children (**v. 4a**)
 2. How to raise your children (**v. 4b**)
- II. Servants and Masters (**vv. 5-9**)
 - A. Paul's Command to Bondservants (**vv. 5-8**)
 1. Work with a God-centered vision (**vv. 5-7**)
 2. Work for a God-given reward (**v. 8**)
 - B. Paul's Command to Masters (**v. 9**)

GOSPEL CENTRALITY

Our homes and work are an expression of what God is doing in Christ in this world to unite all things under his headship.

KNOWING AND BEING KNOWN

- As children growing up, what was your experience with obeying your parents? Parents with children, how do you think your experience with your parents is affecting how you parent your children?
- Imagine you were a bondservant during this time. How do you receive Paul's instruction regarding your situation? How can we apply this instruction to our lives today?
- The word for master is the Greek word, Lord. How does it make you feel to consider the Lord as your Master?
- What has the Holy Spirit put on my heart to share in order to be known?

RESPONDING IN PRAYER

- Thank God for the work He has done and is doing in Christ to unite all things to Himself.
- Pray for the parents in your group and those that desire to be parents, that God would use their households, both now and in the future, to make a difference in the world.
- Pray for the work relationships in your group, both those who lead and those who serve, that they would be able to work 'as to the Lord' and that their work would make a difference in the world.
- Pray that all our relationships would have the attitude of Christ as we submit to another and serve one another in humility.