

PART 10: HANDOUT Ephesians 6:1-9. Living the Lordship of Christ

God's Program: Bring Unity to All things in Heaven and On Earth Under Christ **Read Ephesians 6:1-9**

Paul shares with 4 Groups of Christians as to how they Can have Harmony in Christ.

Vs 1-3 Paul Speaks to Christian Children Paul Gave them 4 Reasons Why they Should Obey their Parents:

1. **They are Christians, in the Lord.** To Apply Gods Word, "Submitting Yourselves, to One Another. A Christian Child, is Not Released from Normal Obligations of Life. **Obedience is Commanded.** To Honor, Our Parents Means More than to Simply Obey Them. It Means to Show them Respect and Love. To Care for Them...And to Bring Honor to Them By the Way, We Live.
2. **Obedience Brings Blessings.** The 5th Commandment has a Promise Attached to it: *That the days may be long upon the land, which the Lord your God gives you* Ex 20.
 - It States A Principal: When Children Obey their Parents in the Lord, they Escape a good deal of sin and danger, and avoid things that could threaten or shorten their lives
 - **KEY: "Sin Always Robs US...Obedience Always Enriches US!"**
 - **POINT:** "Disobedience to Parents is Rebellion Against God."
3. Christian Fathers: If Left of Themselves, Children Will Be Rebellious! So it is Necessary for the Parents to Train their Children in the Admonition of the Lord. Paul tells Us that the Father has Several Responsibilities Toward His Children:
 - He must Not Provoke Them: *Paul told Parents, Don't Use Your Authority to Abuse or Discourage the Child, But to Encourage and Build the Child Up.* Fathers Provoke/Discourage their Children by Saying one thing and Doing Another. *Always Blaming and Never Praising.*
 - Christian Parents Need the Fullness of the Spirit So They Can be Sensitive to the Needs and Problems of Their Children.
 - He Must Nurture Them. in the Training and Discipline of the Lord. The Christian Husband is to Nourish his Wife and his Children by Sharing, Love and Encouragement in the Lord. It is Not Enough to Nurture the Children, Physically by Providing Food, Shelter, and Clothing. He Must Also Nurture them Emotionally and Spiritually. Rules Without Relationship...Equals Rebellion!
4. God's Plan for Parents is Balanced Growth: Intellectual, Physical, Spiritual & Social. Therefore, Parents Must Be in Gods Word and Seek Gods Wisdom on Raising Each Child!
 - The word Nurture carries with it The idea of learning through discipline. It is Translated Chastening in Heb 12. *Discipline is a Basic Principle of Life and an Evidence of Love!* Hebrews 12. "Whom the Lord Loves He Chastens"
 - **POINT: If the Parent Is Not Disciplined, They Surely Cannot Discipline Another, And Flying Off the Handle, Never Made Either a Better Child...Or A Better Parent.**
 - Discipline Must be Fair and Consistent...Loving Discipline Gives Assurance to the Child.
 - A father must instruct and encourage them. The word Admonition Suggest the father and mother Not Only Use Actions to Raise the Child...But Also WORDS.

POINT: The Home is Where Our Children Learn about the Lord and Christian Living! Where God's Word Takes Root in Our Children Is When They See It Lived Out Daily in the Family!

Vs 5-8 Christian Servants: The word Servants, undoubtably Refers to Christian Slaves, but we may Certainly Apply these Words to the Christian Employee today.

- They were really serving Christ. They had master's on Earth, But their True Master was in Heaven.
- The fact that an Employee and his Employer are both Christians is No Excuse for either to do less work. **It's a Good Reason to be more Faithful to each other.**
- The Employee should Respect his Employer, and Not Take Advantage of him. He should devote his full attention and energy to the job at hand with singleness of heart. *The best way to be a witness on the job is to do a good day's work!*
- The Christian worker will "Avoid Eye Service", You Know...working Extra hard when the Boss is Watching, to give the impression he's doing a very good job.

Doing a Good Job is the Will of God. Christianity Doesn't Differentiate Sacred from Secular. A Christian can Perform any Good work as a Ministry of Christ, to the Glory of God.

- The Worker Does his Job from the heart, Just as if He is Serving the Lord! "Singleness of Heart, and Doing the Will of God from the Heart, Indicate the Importance of a Right Heart Attitude On The Job."

Paul's Third Argument is They Will be Rewarded By the Lord VS 8.

Point: We are to Serve Christ, Not Men. We Shall Receive Our Rewards from Christ, Not from Men.

Verse 9 Christian Masters. The Christian faith does not bring about harmony by Erasing, social or cultural distinctions. Servants are still servants when they trust Christ, masters are still masters.

"Rather, the Christian faith brings harmony by working in the heart!"

- Christ Gives Us a New Motivation, Not a New Organization. Both servant and master Serve the Lord and Seek to Please Him. In this way, they are able to work together to the glory of God.

The responsibilities of a Christian Employer to his Workers

- He Must Seek Their Welfare: If the Employer Expects the Workers to Do Their Best for him, He Must Do His Best for Them. The Employer Must Serve the Lord from his heart If he Expects the Servant/Employee to Do the Same. He must not exploit them.

He Must Be Submitted To and Practice the Lordship of Christ.

- The wife submits to her own husband as unto the Lord, 5:22, The husband loves his wife as Christ also loved the church 5:25. Children obey their parents in the Lord. And parents raise their children in the Nurture and Admonition of the Lord, 6:4. Employees are Obedient as Onto Christ 6:5. And Employers Treat their servants/Employees as Their Master in Heaven Would Have Them Do.
- **KEY: When Each Person Is In Submission to the Lord...They Will Have No Problem Submitting To Each Other.**

Jesus said the way to be a ruler is First to be a Servant Matt 25:21. This Explains Why many Great men of the Bible were First Servants Before God Made them Rulers: Joseph, Moses, Joshua, David, and Nehemiah are just a few examples. Even after a man becomes a leader, he must still lead by serving.

- Matt 20:27 says, the chief is servant of all. And whosoever will be chief among you let him be your servant.

Finally, He Must Not Play Favorites: VS 9: God is No Respecter of Persons. He will Judge a Master Or Servant, If he Sins, OR He Will Reward a Master or a Servant If He Obeys.

- A Christian Employer Cannot take Privileges Simply Because of his Position, Nor Should a Christian Employer Play Favorites with Those Under his Authority.
- One of the Fastest Ways for a Leader to Divide his Followers and Lose their Confidence is for the Leader to Play Favorites and Show Partiality.

In Closing: Living in Harmony with others Fosters a Supportive Environment that Enhances Well-being, Improves Relationships, and Boosts Community.

- It Promotes Empathy, Kindness, and Conflict Resolution...Creating a Secure, Environment for Growth both Individually and as the Body of Christ!.
- *Embracing Diversity in the Body and Acting with Compassion, Leads to Peaceful, Loving Relationships.*

LIFE POINT: As We Submit to God's Authority, We Will Walk in Harmony, Filled With the Holy Spirit, Being Joyful and Thankful For Each Other.