

EPHESIANS

Lesson 9 - Chapter 6:1-9

As we come to the last chapter of Ephesians, Paul continues to instruct in a *walk worthy* of the calling. He has talked about how we are to walk in this new life God has given us, in the light and in love. He has shown how that translates into the order of God's authority in marriage and submission to one another. Now he brings these same attitudes into other areas of our lives, in family and in work relationships. When God calls us to walk worthy, He intends this walk to be woven through every area of our lives.

As we look more at the subject of submission, as well as the proper way to be in authority, ask the Lord to examine the relationships in your own life and show you how to *walk worthy*.

Key Word(s)

Read through the entire chapter, looking for words or themes that are repeated. Make note of those words and their significance here.

Memory Verse – This week's memory verse is Colossians 3:23.

"And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men..."

Read Ephesians 6:1- 4.

Having examined the marriage relationship in Chapter 5, we now turn our attention to the attitudes and actions of the parent/child relationship. Whether you have young children, your children are grown or the Lord has simply put children under your influence, you will find truth here to apply to your own life.

1. Let's start with a reminder of how God looks at children. What do the following scriptures say about children?

a. Genesis 33:5

b. Genesis 48:9

c. Psalm 127:3

2. According to Matthew 18:1-5 and Matthew 19:14, what example did Jesus give for our attitudes toward children?

3. How can you apply these things to your own attitude and actions to the children in your life?

Read Ephesians 6:1-3 again.

1. Complete the table below with the commands and the reasons for obeying given in the following scriptures.

	<u>Command</u>	<u>Reason</u>
a. Ephesians 6:1		
b. Ephesians 6:2		
c. Colossians 3:20		
d. Deuteronomy 5:16		

2. Define obedience.

3. Explain what it means to you when Ephesians 6:1 says to obey “*in the Lord.*”

4. What is the difference between “*obey*” in Ephesians 6:1 and “*honor*” in Ephesians 6:2?

5. Take some time now to consider your own attitude toward your parents. Even as an adult who must make their own decisions, how can and should you still honor them?

The respect that a young child learns to give parents is a first step to learning respect for God, our heavenly Father. Therefore, respect for one’s parents is not just a natural and moral obligation, but a spiritual principal as well.

Read Ephesians 6:4.

We have seen the behavior and attitudes God has instructed children to have toward their parents, but Paul also addresses the attitude and behavior of the father. In this section we will study what the Word has to say about parental responsibilities.

1. What are fathers told not to do in this verse?

a. Define *provoke*.

b. What are some ways that parents might do this?

c. What does Colossians 3:21 say will be the result of this?

2. Rather than provoke, in Ephesians 6:4, what are fathers instructed to do?

a. What is *training*?

b. Define *admonition*.

c. Write the last three words from this verse below and explain the importance of them in the instruction of Ephesians 6:4.

3. What do the following scriptures say about the role of godly parents?

a. Deuteronomy 6:6-7

b. Proverbs 13:24

c. Proverbs 22:6

4. We can find examples in scripture of parents whose attitudes and actions toward their children did not follow God's instructions.

a. From Genesis 37:3-4 write the error of the parent and the result in the children.

b. Think of another example in scripture and write about it below.

5. As in all things, God is our example. What does Hebrews 12:5-9 say about God's discipline for us?

6. Reading on in Hebrews 12, what do these verses say about the result of this *admonition and training*?

a. Hebrews 12:10

b. Hebrews 12:11

Read Ephesians 6:5-9.

This section moves into another relationship where we need instruction on the attitudes and actions that will reflect *walking worthy*. Paul addresses bondservants and masters, but these principles apply to any employee and employer or even our attitude toward any who are in authority over us.

1. In Ephesians 6:5 is the instruction to “*be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh...*” Applying this to our own lives and those in authority over us is not always easy, but Paul goes on to say more of how we are to do this. Write the attitude of obedience we are to have from each verse below.

a. Ephesians 6:5

b. Ephesians 6:6

c. Ephesians 6:7

d. What result is given in Ephesians 6:8?

2. There is an attitude that covers all situations of serving one in authority over us.

a. Write Colossians 3:23 below.

b. How would this attitude help in your attitude to those in authority over you?

c. How does this direct you if you are asked to do something that is against God’s Word?

3. Paul does not only address the one who is under authority, but also the one who has the authority over another.

a. What does Ephesians 6:9 say to the *masters*?

b. How can you apply this to those for whom you have responsibility in your own life?

4. Whether we are under authority or have authority over others, how would walking in the attitudes of Ephesians 6:5-9 be an example to the world of *walking worthy to the calling*?

In closing...

1. Remember we are still talking about *walking worthy* in this chapter.
 - a. How have we been instructed on *walking worthy* as a parent this week?

 - b. How does the proper training and admonition of the Lord begin the instruction of children in *walking worthy*?

2. How does the attitude of doing all *as unto the Lord* effect how you walk in the relationships of this life?

Memory Verse

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men...
Colossians 3:23