

EPHESIANS 6:1-9 Study (NLT) "OBEY" October 3, 2010

• ORDER: The Holy Spirit is speaking to three relationships where there is submission and discipline. The relationships are between: wife and husband, children and parents, employees and employers. If we are to live together in peace and prosperity and please God, there must be order. This means we respect and obey those who have authority over us. We do that even when their ideas may not be wise from our point of view or they are abusive in their treatment of us. Those with responsibility for others have God-given authority. God exhorts them to lead as He would. He tells people under authority that they are actually obeying Him.

• **6:1-4 Children honor and obey your parents:** Children, _____ your parents. Your highest motivation is that you recognize that you _____ to the Lord. It is the _____ thing to do because your heavenly Father has asked you to do it. It is a foundational attitude and habit leading to a happy and godly life. God has made a _____ to children... that if they will _____ their earthly father and mother, they will live a _____ life on earth and it will be full of _____.

OBEY: One little boy was told to sit down and be quiet. He said, "Okay, if I have to, but I'm standing up and talking inside." A child has to obey his parents because he is weak and helpless and without the knowledge needed to even survive. He obeys his parents because he needs them to train him in good habits and self control by compelling him to do what is right for him whether he feels like it or not and whether he agrees with it or not.

Everyone obeys other people. Even Jesus, the Son of God, was obedient to our Heavenly Father. He humbled himself before the Father and obediently went to the cross to save us. Philippians 2:8 The child obeys his parents most of all because God tells him to.

LIVE LONG: Father God said that people who obey and honor their parents will live long and experience blessing. (1) The son or daughter who places high value on the loving wisdom of parents and has learned to yield to authority responsible for him is being prepared for success and blessing. A person who rebels against his parents, his teachers, the law of the land, his employers, even the needs and desires of husband or wife, and God -- is dooming himself or herself to a shortened life where one trouble after another comes on him.

• Proverbs 1:8 "Listen, my child, to what your father teaches you. Don't neglect your mother's teaching. What you learn from them will crown you with grace and clothe you with honor."

• Proverbs 6:20-22 "My son, obey your father's commands and don't neglect your mother's teaching. Keep their word always in your heart. Tie them around your neck. Wherever you walk, their counsel can lead you. When you sleep, they will protect you. When you wake up in the morning, they will advise you. For these commands and this teaching are a lamp to light the way ahead of you. The correction of discipline is the way to life."

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• **6:4 Fathers (and mothers):** "Don't make your children _____ by the way you _____ them. Rather, bring them up in the _____ and instruction of the Lord."

BRING UP-INSTRUCT: To the Hebrew, teaching children meant that parents recognized that their children belonged to God. Therefore, they were to teach, instruct, train up their children in ways of living that pleased God and also were beneficial to their happiness and success. The best teachers teach with a charm and wisdom that motivates the child to want to live out what they have learned.

• Proverbs 22:6 NLT "Teach your children to choose the right path, and when they are older, they will remain on it." NKJ "Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old (grows up and is no longer dependent), he will not depart from it."

DEVOTED TO GOD: God has given parents the joy of having children in their image even as they were made in His image. "And Adam ...begot a son in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth." Genesis 5:3 Father God always wants to give us joy. Because we are like him, as His children he wants us to have the same experiences and life He enjoys. The joy and fulfillment -- at the birth of our children -- having them in our home--seeing them grow and prosper - learning to please and serve God - and be our special friends for life. However, our children, even ourselves, belong to God. We are to present them to him as we present ourselves - as Christ-like as possible in so far as it depends on us.

TEACH: Teaching is imparting knowledge to another person. Christians teach intending that the person will put into practice what they have been taught. Become a disciple of Jesus. Become a doer of the Word, not only a hearer. James 2:17 Consequently, our stewardship of our children requires that they be brought every week into the life of the body of Christ, the church. Christian parents who do not bring their children to church are out of God's will

• DISCIPLINE: "The practice or methods of ensuring that people obey rules by teaching them to do so and punishing them if they do not. The ability to behave in a controlled and calm way even in a difficult or stressful situation." (Dictionary) A most useful ability is the ability to compel oneself to do things that need to be done such as concentrating on and finishing school work, working hard and faithfully at a job, keeping a devotional life. Another fruit of discipline is self-control, the ability to keep one's temper, to stay calm in stressful circumstances and to walk away from temptations. A disciplined person with few exceptions is one who received external discipline from his or her parents. One psychologist said that if a child has not learned discipline by the time

they are a teenager, they will never have the ability to apply themselves, finish things, and be really successful.

• **MAKE ANGRY:** A child is a small person. A child is not a non-person or a not-yet person. When little children were brought to Jesus, the disciples (who did not properly value the children) tried to shoo them away. Jesus rebuked them. *"Let the children come to me. Don't stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these."* Matthew 19:13 The parent and other adults must recognize that a child has a personal identity, will, feelings, knows right and wrong, understands honoring and dishonoring. *"My brothers and sisters, be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry."* James 1:19 On the other hand, it is inevitable that when parents confront the self will, destructive passions, and rebellion in their children, they are going to get angry and seek to control them. Good parents stand their ground and may use some sort of force to compel them to obey. Their spiritual person inside will agree with us. It is not harmful for them to see us angry at attitudes, defiance, and behavior that we hate in ourselves as well. It is not violating or trespassing when the child steps across the line.

• **6:5-9 Employees and employers:** We do not have slavery in our society. But most people's livelihood comes from working for someone else. The word of the Lord is that people should work for their employers with deep _____ and _____ -- serve them as if they were working for the _____. A Christian worker wants to enhance the prosperity of his employer. He wants to do his part to contribute to society. He wants to assist the Lord in bringing good life to people. "So that we can live in peace and quietness, godliness and dignity." (I Timothy 2:2) The promise is that the _____ will _____ us for the good we do whether we are slave or _____. Masters/employers who know Christ are commanded to treat the people who work for them _____. They are not to _____ those who work for them. Both master and servant have the same _____ in heaven and he has no _____.

WHAT DOES THIS SCRIPTURE MEAN TO YOU? _____