

“Children, Parents, and Masters,” *Ephesians 6:1-9*, page 1146

Introduction:

1. More things are caught than taught.
2. Actions speak louder than words.
3. The Bible uses life experiences to teach us the important aspects of life:
 - A. Abraham.
 - B. Moses.
 - C. David.
 - D. Peter.
4. Our message today speaks of:
 - A. Children.
 - B. Parents.
 - C. Slaves/masters.
5. I would like to start at the ending verse and work our way back to the beginning verse.

I. Relationship of slave/master.

- A. We do not have slave/master relationships that were an acceptable part of biblical times.
- B. The principles taught in these verses, however, would apply to authority positions we experience today.
 1. The owner of company who employs me.
 2. My foreman/boss.
 3. Police officers.
 4. Elected county/state/national leaders.
 5. The coach of the ball team.
 6. The referee of the ballgame.
 7. School teachers/superintendent/etc.
- C. What does this have to do with children obeying parents and the submission required to create a positive family?
- D. We are greatly influenced by what we see other people do. Examples:
 1. The riots we see today that may include several hundred people are usually started by a handful of loud, emotional people.
 2. I have attended high school ballgames and observed the referee. Whistles a foul, few people boo the referee; another whistle, more boos. (Negativity grows.)
 3. We could give dozens of examples of how people can influence both positive and negative reactions by how they act.
- E. Respect, submission, and obedience are at an all-time low in our world today.
 1. I am amazed at how many people are lining up for the race to become president of the U.S.A. in 2008. There is little or no respect given to the position from adults. Our children and grandchildren are watching.
 2. One of our summer church attendees teaches high school in the Grand Rapids area. “It’s almost impossible to teach anymore. There is no respect for teachers and school administrators from the adults.” Our children and grandchildren are watching.
- F. We are fully aware that presidents, schoolteachers, referees, police, and everyone here today is not perfect. Mistakes will be made. We must, however, hold respect for the office or position.
- G. Our children and grandchildren are watching and learning as they observe our conduct toward those who are in authority over us.
- H. The Bible is telling us to:
 1. *“Be obedient to those who are your masters.”*
 2. *“Not with eye service, as men-pleasers, but as servants of Christ.”*
 3. Our influence is powerful, and how we as adults conduct our lives has a direct influence on how our children learn respect and obedience.

II. Parents, we must not provoke our children and grandchildren to wrath/anger.

- A. We can verbally teach them some things.
 1. Talk to them about what Jesus would do.
 2. Share solid advice on how to choose their friends.

3. Counsel them concerning respect and obedience.
- B. The greatest lessons will be learned by what we do, not by what we say.
- C. What do you think our children and grandchildren learn if:
 1. We constantly trash the president of the U.S.A.?
 2. Gossip about our neighbor?
 3. Get mad when the local police enforce the state seatbelt law?
 4. Cheat on income tax reporting?
 5. Disrespect and talk negatively about teachers who are trying to teach our children?
 6. I have heard parents say to their children, "You are a big dummy. Can't you do anything right. You are such a klutz."
 7. What we say to our children and grandchildren has a direct bearing on their adult lives.
- D. Our son, Rodney, was very active in sports.
 1. Little league games.
 2. Parents, especially fathers, big problem.
 3. Yell at son, "How could you miss that pitch?"
 4. Very angry and vocal if not winning.
 5. Acted much worse than boys playing ball. Example not good!
- E. One father especially negative.
 1. Son playing high school baseball. (Pitcher.)
 2. Almost every game a father complained to the umpire.
 3. Embarrassed his son almost every game.
 4. Son became very angry and upset with his father.
- F. Be a good parent and grandparent to your children.
- G. Help them honor, respect, and obey because of the positive relationship they have with us.

III. *"Children, obey your parents."*

- A. Honor and obey your parents. How do I honor and obey my dad today?
 1. Dad does not ask me to do things around the farm anymore.
 2. Our lives are almost worlds apart.
- B. I suppose my days of obeying my dad are over.
- C. I think, however, that I can still honor my father:
 1. Visit him as often as possible.
 2. Send card of encouragement to him saying glad he is my father.
 3. Honor my dad in my heart, my attitude toward him, my conversation about my parents.
 4. Pray for my dad.
- D. Parents who are in the process of raising your children:
 1. Be a good Christian example to them.
 2. Be united and consistent.
 3. Be reasonable; some things are vital, some things only seem important for now.
 4. Do your best to be understanding, and listen to them.
 5. Learn when to drive a stake and when to attempt to work out a compromise.
 6. Have fun with your children.
 7. Spend time with your children doing what they want to do.
 8. Pray for your children.
 9. Encourage and expect the best for your children.
 10. Really love your children.

Conclusion:

1. There are few, if any, easy answers in life.
2. If we want our children to obey us, they must see obedience displayed in our lives.
 - A. Obedience to God.
 - B. Obedience to parents.
 - C. Obedience to authority figures.
3. If we expect respect and honor, they must see that in our daily living.
4. We cannot live another person's life, but with God's help, we can live a positive, productive Christian life that will be passed on to our children and grandchildren.