

Ephesians 6:1-9 “The Ultimate Cage Fight at Smack Down Raw”

Today we start the final chapter of Ephesians. We have been looking at this book for a year and what a year it has been. A lot has happened to all of us and we have all had our circumstances change in that year. Yet God never changes and it is that one true fact I want you to never forget. Because God never changes, what is written in scripture never change either. So what we are about to learn is truth and needs to be obeyed.

1. Children obey your parents – vs. 1 This may look like a simple command. To some it means that we are to do exactly what our parents say and to others it is a suggestion. Still other people take it as meaning only when you are a small child and need them to care for you. There is specific order to what God tells us in the bible. He tells us here to obey our parents because it is right. Notice that Paul says that we are to obey because it is right, not just when the parents are right. Do not lose sight of that fact. The child is responsible to obey the parent and the parent is responsible to obey God. The second phrase in this verse is critical to understanding the command. Children are to “obey their parents IN THE LORD”. That is to look at doing what your parents tell you as being obedient to God. Children cannot obey their parents wholly and completely unless they themselves are doing it in the Lord. The key here is that if you will obey your parents when you are young, you have a much better habit of obeying God when you get older. The habits you form as a child will carry over into adulthood. Be sure that you form good habits now, so you will be a step ahead of your friends. There is only one situation where we are to deliberately disobey our parents. If you are a Christian and your parents are not and they are telling you to do something contrary to scripture, then you obey God. Institute in Basic Youth Conflicts. @1974 Bill Gothard
2. Honor your father and mother – vs. 2-3 The issue here for me is “Who is speaking and what is their position?” Ex. 20:12 lists the Ten Commandments. The third one is “Honor your mother and father. And then the commandment says something no other commandment has. It has a promise with it. It says that if you do this, you will live long. Also we are told that if we obey and honor our parents that “things will be well” with us. Now this does not mean that we will not have trouble, but that our live will have a greater opportunity to have purpose and we will please God.
3. Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger – vs. 4 This is a tough one for most parents, especially fathers. The truth here is that this applies to both parents. In Paul’s day most writing was to the father as the head of the house, and it was up to the father to share the information with the rest of the house. The challenge here is to discipline appropriately without making you kid angry. God can help here, but in the end, the parent still must be the parent. As David in Psalms says, “spare the rod and spoil the child” children need discipline. The bible also says “even if you beat him, he will not die”. So party on if you feel like it, I will not stop being a parent.

4. Slaves (servants) be obedient to who are over you – vs. 5-9 While this specifically mentions servants and slaves, we can apply this to employee and employers. How do you view your employment? What kind of work do you do? Do you see how little you can do for your money? Do you cut corners whenever possible? Or do you strive to make your employer look good and be successful every chance you get? We are told here that no matter what our bosses are like, we are to work “as to the Lord”. That means with all our ability and without whining. Many slaves and servants in Paul’s day were treated as family members. It is very different from the slavery we had in this country. Remember the story of Onesimus? He ran away from his master, who was a friend of Paul’s, to stay with Paul. Paul wrote Philemon to tell him that Onesimus was with him and he would return him to Philemon. Phil. 10-17. We are here commanded to work as “to the Lord”, and that we need to always remember that God will reward us for our service.