

Dealing With Relationships **Ephesians - 6:1-9**

I. Children Learning to Submit – 6:1-3

1. Submission one to another - 5:18
This is basic in an orderly society
With beginning of sin came rebellion
Adam & Eve chose to act in disobedience to God
Humans chose to act prompted by their own will
Result was disorder and brokenness in our world
2. God's answer is in the redemptive work of Christ
Forgiveness of sin and new life in Christ
Enablement for this new life comes with gift of the Spirit
Holy Spirit enables us to submit our will to God
Followed by submitting to one another in relationships
3. This begins in our families
Wives and husbands – Eph. 5:22-33
Next we come to Children & Parents
4. Children are born with a sinful nature – Psa. 51:5
Self-will & rebellion is in all of us
Order in the home calls for submission of wills
First commandment in God's 10 – Ex. 20:12
"Honor your father and mother"
Learning to obey those in authority over you
This command had a promise attached
"That it may go well with you and you may live long in the land"
Submission & obedience brings good consequences
Parents should teach their children to know God
When they come to know God they need to know His provision
Believing children have the Holy Spirit to help them submit
Submitting to one another is part of family living

II. Father's Challenge in Training – 6:4

1. Fathers named here as responsible
What is said applies to mothers also
2. Do not provoke your children to anger
Things that may provoke them to anger
Inconsistent with what is required
Favoritism among children
Inconsistent with parents example
Expectations too high for specific child
Child's age & ability to perform
3. Training children in obedience & God's truth
Helping them to learn to obey what God says

III. Bondservants Obeying Masters - 6:5-8

1. Spiritual issue of submission goes to work with us
"Obey your earthly masters with fear & trembling" - 5
"Serving with a sincere heart, as you would Christ"

You represent your Lord as you serve in your work
"Not by way of eye-service, as people pleasers" – 6
"As bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart"

This position is God's will for you to represent Him
"Rendering service with a good will as to the Lord" – 7
"Not unto men" Your serving God as you serve men

2. Your Lord will reward you for what you do – 8
"Knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free"
God will reward His faithful servants wherever they serve

IV. Masters Consider Your Workers – 6:9

Believing masters have the same Lord
Be considerate, sensitive to your workers needs
Stop threatening
"Knowing that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven"
You will give account unto your Master
And there is no partiality with Him