

Walking in Obedience **Ephesians 6:1-9**

I. Submit to Parental Authority 6:1-3

1. God designed family to teach submission
All authority is God ordained - Rom. 13:1-2
Children to learn respect & obedience to authority
Parent/child relationship is the primary teaching ground
2. Learning submission to authority is basic
It is "right" in God's eyes - It is a command of God
It is first commandment with a promise attached
So important that God provides extra motivation
Your well-being, as you live on earth, is at stake
It is the key to living in a well-ordered society
God will bless those who submit to established authority

II. Sensitivity to Children's Needs - 6:4

1. Fathers, as appointed heads, are responsible
Mothers share responsibility in support of husbands
2. Training children to submit requires sensitivity
Lack of sensitivity can frustrate & provoke children
Expecting more than the child is capable of doing
Inconsistent in setting and enforcing boundaries
Showing favoritism in dealing with our children
Failure to keep promises or be true to our word
3. Training Children in instruction & discipline
We must teach them God's principles
Deuteronomy 6:4-9 sets a pattern
Help them to know God
Encourage them to love God (more caught than taught)
Teach God's principles in the routine of life
Bind them on your hand (so they guide what you do)
Place them between your eyes (guiding what you see)
Write on doorposts & gates (guiding behavior not home)
We must help them to develop Biblical convictions
Children often borrow parents convictions or those in church
This often ends teaching them to conform to the group
As teens help them apply Biblical principles

III. Submit to Authority at Work - 6:5-8

1. Obedience to earthly "masters" is commanded
Same root word for obedience as in verse 1
Obedience is to be single-minded - focused
Realize that disobedience can have consequences
2. Obeying earthly master you obey True Master
Christ is our Master and He wants us to obey
Not just when being watched to please a man

- Doing a good job at work is "God's Will" for you
3. Serve earthly master with a good attitude - 7
 4. Your True Master will richly reward you - 8

IV. Sensitivity to Worker's Needs - 6:9

1. Delegated authority includes accountability
Like husbands, fathers, masters appointed by God
Those with delegated authority must answer to God
2. Accountable for how they treat workers
Harsh & threatening methods will be evaluated
Be considerate of those under your authority
Deal with them honestly & fairly without partiality
3. Earthly masters must answer to True Master
Heavenly Master will either reward or judge them
4. Reliance upon Holy Spirit is key to fulfillment