

August 18 Sermon Passage Study Guide

Ephesians 6:1-9

1 Read 6:1–3

- a Why are children to obey their parents?
- b How should we understand and apply the promise of 6:3?
- c Is this an unconditional command? When do we stop being ‘children’?
- d What is the significance of children being told to obey their parents ‘*in the Lord*’ (6:1)?

2 Read 6:4

- a In what ways are children provoked to anger? Why is it important to avoid this?
- b What are parents to do instead? What does this mean in practice?

3 You might like to spend some time thinking and praying about your own position as a son or daughter and/or a parent in the light of these verses. What practical steps will obedience to God in these areas involve?

4 Read 6:5–8

- a It is immediately remarkable that ... Paul should address himself to slaves at all. Why?
- b What attitude should slaves have to their masters? Why? What modern equivalents can you think of and how do they apply to you?

5 Read 6:9

How are masters to treat their slaves? Why? What modern equivalents can you think of and how do they apply to you?

6 How would you answer someone who said that Paul’s attitude to slavery was ‘an inadequate Christian response to an unmitigated evil’?

7 Family, social and industrial life seem to be under a lot of pressure these days. Spend some time praying for situations where relationships are under strain.¹

¹ Stott, J. R. W. (1979). [*God’s new society: the message of Ephesians*](#) (pp. 307–309). Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.