

ENCORE | Ephesians 6:1-4: The Biblical Family

- 01) Who is in charge (God-given authority) in the Christian home?
- 02) How do you know this?
- 03) How are children to obey their parents?
- 04) What does that mean?
- 05) What does it mean to “honor your father and mother”?
- 06) What are some ways children can honor their father and mother?
- 07) Is it okay to stop honoring your father and mother after you have left their home?
- 08) Why is verse 6 directed to fathers?
- 09) What are some ways parents might “provoke” and/or “discourage” their children?
- 10) Who is responsible to train children to follow Christ?
- 11) What are some ways parents can train and admonish their children?
- 12) What is the most important principal in biblical parenting?
- 13) What does Psalm 127:3 say about your children?
- 14) In light of Psalm 127:3, what are your responsibilities as a parent?

Looking Ahead | Ephesians 6:5-9: Biblical Work Ethic

Monday (v. 5) – Ephesians 5:21, “submitting to one another”; Ephesians 5:22, “wives submit”; Ephesians 5:24, “as the church is subject”; Ephesians 5:33, “see that she respects”; Ephesians 6:1, “children obey”; Ephesians 6:5, “be obedient.” Notice also the words “bondservants” and “master(s).” This entire portion of Scripture is talking about the roles God has given us and the authorities He has placed into our lives. With that in mind, what attitude should you display at work? How should you view your boss?

■ Daily Bible Reading: Gen. 23-24; Matt. 17

Tuesday (v. 5-6) – “Be obedient to those who are your masters.” Ah ha! I live in America, I don’t have a master! This passage is directed to slaves, so it’s not for me; right? Believe it or not, even in America you have many “masters”; you may have even called your boss a “slave driver” a time or two. Yes, this passage is directed to workers under a slightly different dynamic than we face here in America, but the core issue (roles and authority) are the same. With this in mind, what attitude is God calling you to in regards to your boss?

■ Daily Bible Reading: Gen. 25-26; Matt. 18:1-20

Wednesday (v. 5-7) – Work with the right attitude. Work can seem like drudgery some days, but it was never intended to be that way. Work is actually a gift from God (Eccl. 3:10-13). Work was given to us before the fall, before sin entered the world; work is good! So, the right attitude is seeing all work as a gift from God. Notice there is another dynamic to the right attitude at work: “as to Christ,” “as bondservants of Christ,” “from the heart,” “as to the Lord.” Every act of service (work) can be done in such a way as to be done to the Lord Himself. That should give us a new outlook on work! Every job you do (no matter how menial it may seem) can be done “to the Lord”; in other words, you aren’t working for a paycheck, you aren’t working for the good of the company, you aren’t even working to please your boss. You work to please your true Master, Jesus Christ.

■ Daily Bible Reading: Gen. 27-28; Matt. 18:21-35

Thursday (v. 8) – You work to please your true Master, Jesus Christ. Isn’t that an encouraging thought? We know that everything ultimately comes from the Lord and that ultimately He is your Master; but don’t we also know that He is good? earthly “masters” might (or will?) let us down. They might not pay us as well as we deserve. They might not praise us for a job well done, or even acknowledge our existence. You know something? It doesn’t really matter. You see, your true Master sees everything. He sees everything you do, even in secret, and He is waiting to reward you openly.

■ Daily Bible Reading: Gen. 29-30; Matt. 19

Friday (v. 9) – Now we have what you might call “a word to the masters or bosses.” God has placed some people in positions of authority here on earth. Those He has entrusted with this stewardship of authority have a rather high calling, their Master has perfect vision and perfect knowledge and they will one day give Him an account. Still want to be a boss? If you are called “boss” by someone, then this verse is for you; change the way you think about your employees, “giving up threatening.” God wants you to have the same love and care for those under your charge as He does for you.

■ Daily Bible Reading: Gen. 31-32; Matt. 20:1-16

Saturday (Col. 3:17 & 22-24) – “Do all for the glory of God.” America has a certain culture of entitlement these days. One reason our financial dominance in the world has diminished is because our workforce has bought into this same entitlement mentality. “I deserve my job. I deserve more money. I deserve more time off. I deserve, I deserve.” The “bosses” or CEOs have fallen into the same mindset, taking multi-million dollar “packages,” many of them for jobs not-so-well done. As followers of Jesus Christ we are called to buck the system, we work for a much higher CEO. Yes, our Master is the Creator of the universe, so our goal in working is much different. Some days your job may seem like drudgery—but it shouldn’t! “Whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord.”

■ Daily Bible Reading: Gen. 33-35; Matt. 20:17-34