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**Biblical Obedience**

**Biblical Authority**

**Ephesians 6.1-9**

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# Book Theme

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The Eternal Plan  
of God

# Book Key Verse

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## **Ephesians 4.1**

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to  
walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which  
you have been called,

# Lesson Key Verse

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## **Ephesians 6.9**

9 And masters, do the same things to them, and give up threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

# Lesson Theme

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Paul concludes his instruction to the basic household units with commands to children, parents, slaves, and masters that point not only to their duties to each other but to the reality that each person, no matter their role, is ultimately accountable to God.

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# Ephesians

6:1-9

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1.

The Call for Obedient Children (1-3)

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# 1. The Call for Obedient Children (1-3)

A. The Command Stated (1)

B. The Command Expounded (2-3)

## **B. The Command Expounded (2-3)**

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**Exodus 20:12 - "Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be prolonged in the land which the LORD your God gives you.**

**Deuteronomy 5:16 - 'Honor your father and your mother, as the LORD your God has commanded you, that your days may be prolonged and that it may go well with you on the land which the LORD your God gives you.**

## B. The Command Expounded (2-3)

1. The Promises of Obedience
2. The Consequences for Disobedience
3. Examples of Obedience

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11.

The Call to Compassionate Parents (4)

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## 11. The Call to Compassionate Parents (4)

### A. The Command Stated Negatively

## A. The Command Stated Negatively

Ways to provoke your children:

- Yell at them doing something childish – “discipline” in anger
- Respond differently to the same behavior so the child never knows what to expect
- Failure to clarify the authority given by God and makes it all about “do what I say”
- Failure to do what they expect their child to do – “do as I do, not as I say”

## A. The Command Stated Negatively

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Do not provoke your children to wrath. Though God has given you power, you must not abuse that power, remembering that your children are, in a particular manner, pieces of yourselves, and therefore ought to be governed with great tenderness and love. Be not impatient with them, use no unreasonable severities and lay no rigid injunctions upon them. When you caution them, when you counsel them, when you reprove them, do it in such a manner as not to provoke them to wrath. In all such cases deal prudently and wisely with them, endeavouring to convince their judgments and to work upon their reason.

Matthew Henry

## 11. The Call to Compassionate Parents (4)

A. The Command Stated Negatively

B. The Command Stated Positively

1. Discipline

The father is held accountable by God as the one who is responsible for teaching the children and for being the disciplinarian of the children. Fathers are warned at this point that as they carry out these responsibilities of discipline and instruction, they are not to be tyrannical or harsh in their treatment of the children... Remember the statement that the parent who will not discipline his child, hates the child (Proverbs 13:24)...There are times when parents find it extremely difficult to discipline their children because they don't want to alienate the children and they don't want to put up with the tears that may follow from disciplinary action. But when they just allow children to do whatever they want, without any discipline and without any instruction, they are loving themselves rather than their children. - R.C. Sproul

## 11. The Call to Compassionate Parents (4)

A. The Command Stated Negatively

B. The Command Stated Positively

1. Discipline

2. Instruction

## A. The Command Stated Positively

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### Instruct and Teach your Children:

- Everywhere and every day – Deut 6.7; 11.19-21
- God is the hero of the Bible – Deut 6.20-24, Ex 13.14-15
- The mighty works of God – Joshua 4.21-24
- Your own priority to obey God – Joshua 24.15

## 11. The Call to Compassionate Parents (4)

A. The Command Stated Negatively

B. The Command Stated Positively

C. Examples from the Bible

Do not provoke your children to wrath. Though God has given you power, you must not abuse that power, remembering that your children are, in a particular manner, pieces of yourselves, and therefore ought to be governed with great tenderness and love. Be not impatient with them, use no unreasonable severities and lay no rigid injunctions upon them. When you caution them, when you counsel them, when you reprove them, do it in such a manner as not to provoke them to wrath. In all such cases deal prudently and wisely with them, endeavouring to convince their judgments and to work upon their reason.

Matthew Henry

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# III.

The Call for Obedient Slaves (5-8)

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## III. The Call for Obedient Slaves (5-8)

### A. The Consistent Reality

At the time this was written, slavery was a commonplace social phenomenon. This tends to rub against the grain for contemporary Christians who see the very institution of slavery as something utterly inconsistent with the gospel and the will of God. Yet it seems by implication here that Paul is endorsing some forms of the institution of slavery.

There were certain kinds of voluntary slavery in the ancient world, where a person would bind himself over to the service of another person, for example, to pay off his debts. But there was also the whole idea of selling people into slavery and the even worse practice of stealing people who were free and using them as slaves. Paul doesn't comment here on any of the variety of forms of slavery that did exist in the ancient world. He just speaks in general to anyone who happens to be in that situation of slavery....

Paul is speaking consistently about rendering service to whom service is due. Now we can speak more broadly here. There is a sense in which anyone who is in the employ of another person, although not a slave, is in a situation where services are to be rendered. In the case of our twentieth century industrial contracts, those services are rendered for hire. Employees receive pay cheques from their employers who enter into an agreement with those whom they employ. Employees are committed to giving certain services in return for the benefits and the remuneration that they receive for those services. Some of the principles that Paul applies to slaves can well be carried over and applied to anyone who is an employee.

R.C. Sproul

### III. The Call for Obedient Slaves (5-8)

A. The Consistent Reality

B. The Command Stated

C. The Chaistic Command

## The Chiastic Command (5-7)

- A. (5) Servants, be obedient to those that are your masters according to the flesh,
- B. with fear and trembling,
- C. in the sincerity of your heart,
- D. as to Christ;
- E. (6) Not by way of eyeservice,
- E'. as menpleasers;
- D'. but as slaves of Christ,
- C'. doing the will of God from the heart.
- B'. (7) With good will
- A'. rendering service, as to the Lord, and not to men:

### III. The Call for Obedient Slaves (5-8)

A. The Consistent Reality

B. The Command Stated

C. The Chaistic Command

D. The Consequential Command

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# IV.

The Call for Considerate Masters (5-8)

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## IV. The Call to Considerate Masters (9)

A. The Reciprocal Command

B. The Consequential Command

# Application

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A. The Principle of Obedience

B. The Principle of Authority

This is the oracle of God that turned the world upside down. All obligations involving human beings are a two-way street. Slaves have duties, but so also to their masters! What an earth-shaking concept this was, and IS! Toward their slaves, masters were commanded: “Give them the same good will, love, and loyalty that you hope to receive from them.” Behind the commandment like this lay infinite dimensions of those tremendous new value-judgments which were brought to mankind from above by Jesus Christ the Lord. The infinite value of a human life! Who ever heard of such a thing? It had never been heard of until the apostles of Christ preached it heathen darkness having themselves received it of the Lord...

However, it should be noted that it was not the truth alone which could change the world; it was *the truth in the Christ Jesus, the Lord!*

The duty of masters to their slaves, fathers to their children and husbands to their wives, etc., were not just splendid theories.

The living Christ at the right hand of God would require of every man an accounting of his deeds on the judgment of the Great Day.

No man would escape it!

Burton Coffman