

BLUEPRINT

LIFE NOTES

Ephesians 6:1-9

February 4, 2018

QUESTIONS

1. Chapter 6 continues to explore the concept of household codes by exhorting children, parents, slaves and masters in their relationships towards one another. The children were asked to obey their parents in the Lord. Does this mean that they were to only obey if they were Christians? Use verses 1-3 to support your answer.

2. Paul quotes Deut. 5:16 as bases for his teaching towards children's obedience to their parents. Honouring them is, according to one commentator, "the disposition" and obeying them "is the duty." (p. 1078 LSNTC citing Salmound, 375). Why is honouring important for a child, not just merely obeying? Are there any circumstances when a child should not obey their parents?

3. Parents ("fathers" is a synecdoche here..." p. 1031 ECB cf. v. 1) are also addressed in this passage. What are they not to do and what are they to do as Christian parents? What steps can we take to apply v. 4 today?

4. Slaves were considered part of the extended household in Paul's time. Obviously, there were both slave and slave owners who became Christians. This would have caused some tension because in Christ there was "neither slave nor free" (Gal. 3:28). What was Paul's admonition to slaves in this scenario, and what was his reasoning behind it (verses 5-8)?

5. In similar fashion (5:25-3; 6:4), Paul now addresses the other party, this being 'masters' (verse 9). There is a play on words ('kurioi', 'masters' and 'Kurios', 'the Master') which brings home the point of the duty, reality and obligation of earthly masters. What is this and how does this apply? What can all people with any kind of authority learn through this passage?