

What does walking in line with the new person I am in Christ, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being subject to one another in reverence of Christ look like in a Christian family and in the workplace? **6:1-9** The roles and responsibilities of Christian children & parents, employees & employers who are filled with the Spirit and taking the Lordship & presence of Jesus seriously.

Children, what does **5:18-21** look like in your family? According to God's Word, it looks like obedience & honor, with the Lord Jesus being the real issue. **Obe**y has to do with actions. **Honor** has to do with attitude. As you 'listen under' and put your parents and their interests ahead of yourself (**5:21**), you'll be acting on the role and responsibility our Lord has given you. Satan's plan is to undermine and destroy the family. Disobedience and dishonor to parents are symptoms of a disintegrating social structure (**2 Tim. 3:2, Rom. 1:18-32**).

:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

:1 Children If you're old enough to know Jesus as Lord, then you're old enough to respond to **6:1-3**. **Obe**y (present imperative) **your parents**. The issue of obedience is important to our Lord Jesus. As a child still living with your parents, 'listen attentively' to what they say. Then you are to choose in the Spirit's strength and the Lordship and presence of Jesus and the new person you are in Christ to obey (unless it is wrong Biblically). If you don't understand or maybe even agree with your parents' request, let them know in a respectful way and count on the Lord and the Spirit to help you obey anyway.

In the Lord, for this is (present) right. Jesus is the issue! When you obey and honor your parents, you are obeying Jesus, and you can trust that He knows what is best for you. It's right, just. Realize, childhood is preparation for adulthood. Your goal as you grow up should be to eventually move from dependence upon your parents to total dependence upon the Lord Jesus.

The joy of trusting the Lord and then obeying your parents. It's the role our Lord has given you to live. Obedience looks like: listening carefully and then doing what they say. When told "Clear the table, do the dishes, take out the trash, mow the lawn, go to bed, be home for curfew, come when I call, clean up your room," obedience is the issue! It's God role for you. It's in the Lord. It's right!

Your parents shouldn't have to 'make you' obey!

:2 All the time **Honor** (present active imperative) **your father and mother (which is (present) the 1st commandment with a promise)**. Paul is quoting **Ex. 20:12** and **Dt. 5:16**, the 5th of the Big 10! Honor in the OT means heavy, the idea of giving weight or value to. To honor your parents = you highly value them; you respect their role. Willing obedience is one way to communicate your honor.

Your parents aren't perfect and neither are you, but we're all growing in the Lord. He's at work in your life and in your parents'. You're not to honor all their actions; you're to honor them because God has given them that role. Trust the Lord Jesus to work with them when they do things that don't seem or aren't worthy of respect. See **:2** in 'notes' for what honor looks like.

:3 So that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth (Ex. 20:12). Your obedience and honor have their reward. Children who follow and respond willingly to their parents tend to live long and well-ordered lives. Learn to walk in the Spirit's strength. Learn to obey Jesus and honor Him. You'll live a blessed (by God) life!

Child, if you are not a follower of Jesus as Lord, you can't obey and honor as Jesus tells you to. Your first need is to come by faith to Jesus as Lord. If you are a follower of the Lord Jesus, the Spirit of God has come to live in your body and will be your strength to honor and obey your parents as you **3:16-19** and **5:18** it! Know you've become a new person in Christ, allow the Holy Spirit to fill and strengthen you, assume you're filled until He lets you know otherwise. Learn how to walk worthy and what that walk will look like.

:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This is God's role and responsibility for parents, although this verse is especially addressed to fathers. The role of the parent(s) is wrapped up in 3 commands: (1) Don't provoke your child to anger. (2) From **Col. 3:21**: Don't exasperate your child so that he/she becomes discouraged, disheartened. (3) Do bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. This requires study of each child. What will provoke this particular child to sinful anger or exasperate him/her so that he/she loses heart? It could be continuous criticism; overly restrictive; expecting too much or too little; playing favorites; punishing a child in a fit of rage; not meaning what you say. All are ways of discouraging or exasperating or provoking a child to anger.

Each child is a gift to you from God so **bring them up** to maturity; nourish, nurture them. If not Christians, introduce them to the Lord Jesus, and still practice **:4**. If Christians, make sure they are equipped (7 Keys to Discipleship). Accept them where they are. Take time to listen. Be forgiving. Laugh with them. Do more things together with them. Share how God is working with you. Let them know your love. Encourage your child to excel, risk, and be challenged at their level. Although you could(!), don't make everything an issue.

Discipline Study **Heb. 12:5-12** to see how God exercises it. Discipline is an action word: what is done to the child. It's the systematic training of a child. The Lord's will and the child's best are to control our every action.

Instruction is a putting-in-mind word. It is what is said to the child. If he/she is to reach his/her God-given potential, your child must be taught truth, God's truth first of all. Set safe boundaries and carry out the consequences (that they know in advance). Encourage them when they obey and honor, and train them when they choose not to operate within those known boundaries. Surround your children with prayer, trusting the Father and Lord Jesus and the Spirit of God to do for them, what They did and are doing for us.

What does walking in line with the Word of God, by the power of the Spirit of God, for the purpose of the glory of God (being filled with the Spirit and subject to one another in the reverence of Christ) look like in the work place?

:5-8 Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in the sincerity of your heart (kardias), as to Christ;

not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart (psuchēs, soul). With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men, knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether slave or free. Read Col. 3:22-25.

God's message is a message to save people, not to reform politics. Saved people will as a by-product change society! Christianity didn't abolish existing societal, political, & economic conditions; it just shows us how to live as a Christian no matter your status. It's not wrong to try to improve conditions if you have that freedom (**1 Cor. 7:21**), but if you can't, walk as a Christian and carry out your role where God has placed you. See **1 Pet. 2:18-20, Col. 3:22-4:1**.

:5-8 Roman citizens felt work was beneath their dignity. From 1/3 to 1/2 of the population of the Roman Empire were slaves. By Roman law a slave was not a person but a living tool. Yet slaves and employees are to be obedient (same word as **:1**) to their earthly masters. It was becoming part of the one Body of Christ that made men & women, Gentiles & Jews, masters & slaves free & equal (**Gal. 3:28**).

:5 Slaves/employees (**:8**), you are commanded to **be continually obedient** (same as **:1**). Obedient means to listen attentively and then do what's been heard. The important thing is not the specific request (unless it is Biblically wrong), but the issue of obedience. **Masters according to the flesh** (that's all they are; they aren't your lord! **Lk. 12:4-5**). Human slavery applied only to the bodies of people and not to their souls and spirits. Yet take your boss seriously. **With fear & trembling**. Fear is also in **5:21,33**, reverence, respect, & quaking. **Do it from the heart. As to Christ (:5,6,7,8,9)**. You take Jesus with you on the job! Out of love for Him, by His power, for His glory, you're to be obedient to your boss. These verses tell us how Jesus is going to 'work' through you!

:6 **Don't be an eye-slave**, doing only the minimum your job requires, much less work only when someone is watching. Your work should be excellent enough to present to the Lord Jesus Himself! Nothing the Christian does is insignificant!! **You from the soul are to embrace the known will of God.**

:7-8 **Knowing** (present active imperative) **that whatever good thing each one does** (aorist): you fully know that whatever you do that is beneficial, **this you will receive back from the Lord**. You serve eagerly, willingly. You're thoughtful of others. You're faithful with the abilities you have. No good thing done in line with His Word, in His strength, and for His glory will go unrewarded.

: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.** Masters/employers, do the same to your employees and give up threatening. Model the kind of behavior you expect from them. You as a Christian boss have this role because God wants to use you to serve, bless, and benefit your workers! Remember **4:20-5:21** applies to *every* Christian. You already fully know that you both have the same impartial Master. Don't misuse your God-given role. Renounce the unfair weapon of threats!

Filled with the Spirit, responding to the Lordship and presence of Jesus, and remembering you're a new 'man' in Christ, accept your role and live it out on a daily basis, whether wife, husband, child, parent, worker, or boss.

Practical Ways to **Apply** God's Word:

1. Start with Jesus (Mt. 11:28-30) and fix your focus on Him (**Heb. 12:1-3**). Practice ECRAT: Examine, Confess, Review, Allow, and Thank.
2. As part of your immediate family, you have a responsible role to play. Husband: a loving head. Wife: a supportive companion. Parent: don't provoke your child to anger or exasperate him/her so they lose heart; do bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Child: obey and honor your parents.
3. Then as part of the Family of God, pray for, love, be hospitable to, and serve one another, using your Spirit-given gifts (**1 Pet. 4:7-11**). Also, consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24-25). Do good to all Gal. 6:10. Also see **Eph. 4:1-16** and **Rom. 12:3-13** which describe the 'walk' of the Church.
4. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, Eph. 4:20-6:18, and 1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
5. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you're continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there's a steady input from God's Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there's a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.
6. **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13)**. Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).
Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

FOR NEXT WEEK: Please read **Eph. 6:10-17**. How would you summarize God's provision for each Christian, no matter who the opponent or what his schemes?

:1-4 Each family member is addressed. **Ex. 21:15,17, Lev. 20:9**, either to physically or verbally abuse a parent was a capital offense in ancient Israel.

:1 A child is anyone still in the “training up” process. In the Hebrew culture, it was straight from childhood to adulthood, around 13. Probably :1 was not the first verse you learned as a child, but most likely the first verse your parents learned after they became parents! **5:21** says being subject is a result of being filled with the Spirit, each action in awe of Jesus. Obedience and honor will be the way this subjection will look when you’re filled with the Spirit. And, the issue isn’t as much what your parents ask you to do but our willing obedience. The Lord Jesus as a boy obeyed and submitted to His earthly parents (**Lk. 2:51**), and later to His Father.

:2 Perhaps the first law relating to human relationships. Perhaps referring to the fact that it is the only commandment of the 10 that relates to the family.

What item do you value most of all? Do the same with your parents.

Honor looks like: realizing your parents have been given to you by God to bring you up, train you, prepare you for a life of dependence upon the Lord Jesus. Thanking God for your parents. Being thankful and content with what they provide, not always asking for more. Obeying without whining or complaining or pity parties or throwing a fit or temper tantrum. Looking for ways to contribute to the harmony of the family. Respecting the role of everyone in your family. Loving. Forgiving. Having teeth brushed and having gone to the bathroom and finishing your reading before the time to shut off the light! Keeping the house or at least your room picked up (if you make the mess, clean it up). Not talking back. Not always asking why. Doing it the first time, not the 6th or your parent having to raise his/her voice. Not playing on the line but staying far away from it (if you play on it, you’ll eventually and often cross it). Being responsible: going to bed or doing your homework without them telling you to. Talking to them: telling them about the tough choices you’re facing or sharing what is tempting to you, or the good stuff. Hugging them, eye contact, focused attention.

:3 If you don’t know Jesus as Lord or don’t understand about the Holy Spirit’s life in and through yours, talk with your Christian parents, grandparents, a Sunday school teacher, a youth pastor, or a Christian friend who’s growing in the Lord.

Remember the lessons of **Rom. 1:18-32, 2 Tim. 3:2** (disobedience to parents).

:4 Children are a blessing from God (**Ps. 127:3-5**). Let the children come to Me (**Mk. 10:14**). You don’t own your children; they belong to God, a gift from Him.

John Stott: “Roman fathers had absolute control over His family. He could sell them as slaves, he could make them work in his fields even in chains, he could punish as he liked and could even inflict the death penalty. Further, the power of the Roman father extended over the child’s whole life so long as the father lived. Unwanted children were commonly left in the Roman forum. There they became the property of anyone who cared to pick them up.” Ancient civilization was merciless to the sickly or deformed child. Seneca writes, “Children who are born weakly and deformed were drown.”

From Jesus’ childhood: **Lk. 2:40,52**. A child must grow intellectually; his mind is a blank. He must grow physically; when he is born he is weak and physically undeveloped. Every child must grow socially, in favor with men. A child’s most

dominant attitude is selfishness. He must be taught to share, to be considerate of others, not to put his interests above those of everyone else. Every child must grow spiritually, in favor with God; children do not know God naturally.

As a parent, be sure you’re dealing with what needs to be dealt with in your own life first so you’ll be an example of following Jesus as Lord. If you’re a single mom, you can apply these truths to your role as a mom (**Heb. 11:23**). If you’re a grandparent raising your grandchildren (2.8 million in the U.S.), you can also use these truths.

Fathers, do not provoke (present active imperative) **your children to anger**. Also see **Col. 3:21**. This is the action of the ‘new man’ in Christ that parents must put on.

Never free to express/explore/fail. Never compliment or encourage. Always tell what is wrong but never how to correct it. Using love as a tool of reward and punishment. Physical and mental abuse. Humiliating or ridiculing them. Comparing him/her with someone else, especially a sibling. Not taking time for them, to listen, to care, to discuss the uncomfortable. Never taking any time to teach them about the real issues of life. Inconsistent and unnecessary rules. Not meaning what you say. Repeating yourself several times before you mean it! Putting your child under law (it’ll only make them sin more! Remember the law’s purposes: to reveal sin, to condemn sin, to increase sin, and to drive us to Jesus.). You trying to make them carry out their role. Overprotect. Over-discipline. Overly restrictive. Never trust them to do things on their own, and continually question them. Failing to let them grow up at a normal pace. “The hurried child: makeup, achievement, athletics, gifted classes.” Harshness & cruelty at one extreme or by favoritism & overindulgence at the other. 2 vindictive weapons: sarcasm & ridicule.

But bring them up (present active imperative). = bring to maturity, nourish, nurture, train. Also see **5:29**. God’s kind of walk as a parent is only possible if we know Jesus as Lord and how to walk in the strength of the Spirit. Don’t depend on the world/church/school/government to bring them up. Let your children know your Father. Communicate His & your love & forgiveness. His life through yours!

Get to know each one. Communicate love and acceptance. Meet them where they are (there is a bent, a set of characteristics already established). Take time to listen. Discuss the hard stuff. Eye contact, physical touch, focused attention. Spend time together. Have good family communication. Express appreciation to each other. Cultivate an environment in which children can thrive. By wise counsel, wholesome activity, varied routine, free discussion, very reasonable liberty, bring them up. “It is by experiment that children discover both the limits of their freedoms and the unconditional quality of your love.”

One person at the end of his life: “I would love my wife more in front of my children. I would laugh with my children more, at our mistakes and our joys. I would listen more, even to the littlest child. I would be more honest about my own weaknesses, never pretending perfection. I would pray differently for my family; instead of focusing on them, I’d focus on me. I would do more things together with my children. I would encourage them more and bestow more praise. I would share God more intimately with my family.”

Tell them Abraham’s, Joseph’s, David’s, Jesus’, YOUR story. Let your love show, a lot! Communicate acceptance and love based on who they ARE, and not on what they DO. Don’t become consumed with external results, perfect

behavior, appearance, and grades. Let them know your love whether they get an A or fail a test, whether they strike out or hit a home run. Affirm the positives. Set safe boundaries and carry out the consequences. It's not our role to make our children obey and honor. Yes, we can make them obey, outwardly (at least until they're bigger than us!), but that kind of forced obedience isn't pleasing to the Lord.

Write out 3-4 secure boundaries that are best for each child and also write out the consequence they will receive from either parent if they choose to disobey. Sit down with them and go through the boundaries and consequences. As your child grows, these boundaries and issues will change. If your child knows the pros and cons of an issue, let them decide. Then let them live with the results. If we make all the decisions for them or if we bail them out every time they fail, they will never learn to make decisions. Be consistent; keep your word. Always keep referring to the Lord Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit as God's answers to their walk. Give your teenager the right to fail.

Pictures, books, magazines, TV programs you watch, music.

in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Study **Heb. 12:5-12** to see how necessary discipline is. Then discipline as God disciplines and instructs us. God doesn't always spank us! How we disciplined. Undisciplined children feel neglected and insecure and feel they need to take over the controls. Biblical discipline includes correcting in love. In the strength of the Spirit and exercised in love. A child should never be disciplined when the parent is angry. When your child disobeys, carry out the consequences, but also show them that there's the need for a Deliverer, and God has given us one! There's a general opposition to the whole idea of justice and righteousness; this view is that human nature is essentially good. If man is essentially good, he does not need to be born again.

And instruction, = to put in mind. By your words, encourage, teach, reprove, correct (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Put God's truth in their minds and let them do their own thinking and make choices. Biblical principles for making decisions. When we had 'devotions', we let the kids play with toys. Teach your child what genuine Christianity is; how to become a Christian; how to walk by faith and how to be filled with the Spirit; the forgiveness and victory cycles; the Biblical purposes of law. His/her identity in Christ and in the Spirit if he/she is a Christian. His/her identity in Adam and in the flesh if he/she is not a Christian. Teach them how to deal with the world, the flesh, and the devil/demons. Teach them how to handle sin and failure. Teach them how to handle success. Show them how to solve problems in a crisis. Give them Biblical principles to use when dealing with non-Biblical issues. FHIDLS, ECRAT, identity circles, forgiveness and victory cycles. The writer of Proverbs taught them how to handle things like money and laziness and temptation.

Let your children know their worth is inherent: based on being created in the image of God and His love for them, their value in Christ, and their value simply as your children. Help them reach their absolute potential as individuals. Let them know they are created in the likeness of God, their value to Him (we are valuable simply because we are God-fashioned gifts; He's our Creator, our God, our Savior); He loves them. Guide their reading, be ready to answer their questions. Live and teach Biblical truths before the child. Introduce them to Jesus! Give your children the truth that a relationship with the Lord Jesus is the most wonderful

thing in the world! It's a walk with Him, not a bunch of laws and prohibitions.

We carry out these 3 commands (**Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21**) because our Master has told us how to walk as a parent. We obey, not because we have to, but because of our living relationship with Jesus. Have them in Sunday school, youth groups, camps, but you are responsible for their instruction. If you don't know what's being taught in these groups, attend them, ask their teachers.

Of the Lord: it should be 'Christian' training, according to the teaching of His Word, by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, & to His own glory & honor.

CONCL TO :1-4 If you read **:4** and say, "I've messed up royally!", welcome to the group! Confess your sin to our forgiving, restoring Lord Jesus, and go on from there in His strength. Go to your child, confess your wrong, and ask him/her to forgive you. Begin knowing your child. Remember, parenting is not about control, but nurturing, training, and instruction. Their wills can be guided but they can't be controlled.

"The primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency: The father's firm, fair, & consistent instruction & discipline; the mother's supervision & companionship during the day; the parents' demonstrated affection for each other and for the children; and, the family's spending time together in activities where all participate." Failure to be a consistent model. Failure to admit when you are wrong.

We can't 'make' them obey & honor & it's not our role, but show them there are blessings for honoring and obedient decisions & consequences for wrong choices.

No matter your occupation or circumstance, serve the Lord Jesus! He's mentioned in every verse from **:5-9**. Work is not the curse! Work is given by God, and is important, good, and valuable. It allows us to earn a living, provide for our families, and help others in need (**4:28**).

:5-9 Slave/employee, be obedient. Master/boss, you have a Master too

:5 Slaves, who had no legal rights; treated as if they were animals or tools. **Be obedient** (present active imperative) **to those who are your masters**. During this season of your life, our Lord has placed you where you are for you to do your work to the best of your ability. **According to the flesh:** It's a temporary arrangement, only as long as you are in your bodies. **Lk. 12:4:** Human slavery applied only to the bodies of men and not to their souls and spirits. In **Col. 3:22** it is replaced by **fearing the Lord**. Same phrase in **Phil. 2:12** **Work out your salvation with fear and trembling.** As a worker you may not be able to change your circumstances, but you can have a godly attitude and response whatever your relationship. You can practice **4:25-5:21**. **In the sincerity of your heart:** be obedient wholeheartedly, from the heart! Jesus has given you a new heart!

:6 Not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers, an eye-slave. The Spirit-filled worker, who recognizes who God has made him/her, and is aware of the Lordship and presence of Jesus doesn't need to be checked up on or forced to do his job!

But as slaves of Christ: It is the Holy Spirit who is at work in us and through us to make every part of our work 'holy' activity, pleasing to the Lord Himself! You don't steal time, arrive late, depart early, take prolonged breaks, lie. See **4:25-5:21**.

As a Christian, you should be the same on Wednesday as you are on Sunday! You have more influence with non-Christians in one week than they would get if they came to the church every Sunday for a year!

Doing (present active participle) **the will of God from the heart (psuchēs)**: Hard work is God's will (4:28). Doing the best with what you have.

:7 With good will rendering service (present active participle) **as to the Lord**. Your service is to the Master Jesus **and not to men**.

:8 Remind yourself of **3:16-19**. GOD knows; GOD rewards! **Whether slave or free**: whether you're a slave or an employee. This is true freedom, even if the chains are still on! Don't fear those who can kill the body (**Mt. 10:28**).

:9 And masters, do (present active imperative) **the same things to them**. You carry out the will of God from the heart also; you deal with your employees according to their best interests. **See Col. 4:1** "Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness." Treat them as people; listen to their problems; do the best for them.

And give up (present active participle) **threatening**. Don't be constantly holding over your workers some kind of threat.

Knowing (perfect active participle) **that both their Master and yours is in heaven** (the invisible spiritual kingdom of God). Although you're a human master of men, both you and your employees are slaves of the same Lord Jesus.

And there is no partiality with Him. Lit. to receive face. No teacher's pets! He doesn't look at who you are or what your title is before deciding how to treat you. He won't look at your position or salary; He will ask how you treated your brothers/sisters. **Col. 3:17** says, "**Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**"

CONCL TO :5-9 The solution to labor relations must begin with God's solution: salvation through Jesus as Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We in the strength of the indwelling Holy Spirit are to accept our roles. We show the watching world what a difference it makes to be a follower of the Lord Jesus. At your workplace, "God has constructed a holy stage for you to play your part for 40 hours a week to teach the world what it means to worship Him and be truly human."

What does walking in line with the new person I am in Christ, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being subject to one another in reverence of Christ look like in a Christian family and in the workplace? **6:1-9** The roles and responsibilities of Christian children & parents, employees & employers who are filled with the Spirit and taking the Lordship & presence of Jesus seriously.

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The joy of trusting the Lord and then obeying your parents. It's the role our Lord has given you to live. Obedience looks like: listening carefully and then doing what they say. When told "Clear the table, do the dishes, take out the trash, mow the lawn, go to bed, be home for curfew, come when I call, clean up your room," obedience is the issue! It's God role for you. It's in the Lord. It's right!

Your parents shouldn't have to 'make you' obey!

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Your parents aren't perfect and neither are you, but we're all growing in the Lord. He's at work in your life and in your parents'. You're not to honor all their actions; you're to honor them because God has given them that role. Trust the Lord Jesus to work with them when they do things that don't seem or aren't worthy of respect. See **:2** in 'notes' for what honor looks like.

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What does walking in line with the new person I am in Christ, being filled with the Holy Spirit, and being subject to one another in reverence of Christ look like in a Christian family and in the workplace? **6:1-9** The roles and responsibilities of Christian children & parents, employees & employers who are filled with the Spirit and taking the Lordship & presence of Jesus seriously.

Children, what does **5:18-21** look like in your family? According to God's Word, it looks like obedience & honor, with the Lord Jesus being the real issue. **Obe**y has to do with actions. **Honor** has to do with attitude. As you 'listen under' and put your parents and their interests ahead of yourself (**5:21**), you'll be acting on the role and responsibility our Lord has given you. Satan's plan is to undermine and destroy the family. Disobedience and dishonor to parents are symptoms of a disintegrating social structure (**2 Tim. 3:2, Rom. 1:18-32**).

:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER (which is the first commandment with a promise), SO THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU, AND THAT YOU MAY LIVE LONG ON THE EARTH.

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In the Lord, for this is (present) **right**. Jesus is the issue! When you obey and honor your parents, you are obeying Jesus, and you can trust that He knows what is best for you. It's right, just. Realize, childhood is preparation for adulthood. Your goal as you grow up should be to eventually move from dependence upon your parents to total dependence upon the Lord Jesus.

The joy of trusting the Lord and then obeying your parents. It's the role our Lord has given you to live. Obedience looks like: listening carefully and then doing what they say. When told "Clear the table, do the dishes, take out the trash, mow the lawn, go to bed, be home for curfew, come when I call, clean up your room," obedience is the issue! It's God role for you. It's in the Lord. It's right!

Your parents shouldn't have to 'make you' obey!

:2 All the time **Honor** (present active imperative) **your father and mother (which is** (present) **the 1st commandment with a promise**). Paul is quoting **Ex. 20:12** and **Dt. 5:16**, the 5th of the Big 10! Honor in the OT means heavy, the idea of giving weight or value to. To honor your parents = you highly value them; you respect their role. Willing obedience is one way to communicate your honor.

Your parents aren't perfect and neither are you, but we're all growing in the Lord. He's at work in your life and in your parents'. You're not to honor all their actions; you're to honor them because God has given them that role. Trust the Lord Jesus to work with them when they do things that don't seem or aren't worthy of respect. See **:2** in 'notes' for what honor looks like.

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4. Then as an individual Christian: **Rom. 12:9-21, 1 Cor. 13:1-8a, Eph. 4:20-6:18, and 1 Pet. 2:11-3:17** spell out how Jesus will live out His life and love uniquely through you as you trust Him, rest in Him.
5. Be careful who you listen to and what you watch and read, what you're continually thinking about. Choose & be a good role model. Be sure there's a steady input from God's Word. Pray without ceasing. Realize there's a glorious, certain, guaranteed future for you and every other Christian.
6. **Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you will abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit (Rom. 15:13)**. Remember, this is a life and love only Jesus through the Holy Spirit can live in/through you! Yet He will as you by faith run the race set before you (**Heb. 12:1-2a**).
Lessons you learned? Applications you made? Questions you have? What impact does this passage have on your daily walk with Jesus?

FOR NEXT WEEK: Please read **Eph. 6:10-17**. How would you summarize God's provision for each Christian, no matter who the opponent or what his schemes?

:1-4 Each family member is addressed. **Ex. 21:15,17, Lev. 20:9**, either to physically or verbally abuse a parent was a capital offense in ancient Israel.

:1 A child is anyone still in the “training up” process. In the Hebrew culture, it was straight from childhood to adulthood, around 13. Probably **:1** was not the first verse you learned as a child, but most likely the first verse your parents learned after they became parents! **5:21** says being subject is a result of being filled with the Spirit, each action in awe of Jesus. Obedience and honor will be the way this subjection will look when you’re filled with the Spirit. And, the issue isn’t as much what your parents ask you to do but our willing obedience. The Lord Jesus as a boy obeyed and submitted to His earthly parents (**Lk. 2:51**), and later to His Father.

:2 Perhaps the first law relating to human relationships. Perhaps referring to the fact that it is the only commandment of the 10 that relates to the family.

What item do you value most of all? Do the same with your parents.

Honor looks like: realizing your parents have been given to you by God to bring you up, train you, prepare you for a life of dependence upon the Lord Jesus. Thanking God for your parents. Being thankful and content with what they provide, not always asking for more. Obeying without whining or complaining or pity parties or throwing a fit or temper tantrum. Looking for ways to contribute to the harmony of the family. Respecting the role of everyone in your family. Loving. Forgiving. Having teeth brushed and having gone to the bathroom and finishing your reading before the time to shut off the light! Keeping the house or at least your room picked up (if you make the mess, clean it up). Not talking back. Not always asking why. Doing it the first time, not the 6th or your parent having to raise his/her voice. Not playing on the line but staying far away from it (if you play on it, you’ll eventually and often cross it). Being responsible: going to bed or doing your homework without them telling you to. Talking to them: telling them about the tough choices you’re facing or sharing what is tempting to you, or the good stuff. Hugging them, eye contact, focused attention.

:3 If you don’t know Jesus as Lord or don’t understand about the Holy Spirit’s life in and through yours, talk with your Christian parents, grandparents, a Sunday school teacher, a youth pastor, or a Christian friend who’s growing in the Lord.

Remember the lessons of **Rom. 1:18-32, 2 Tim. 3:2** (disobedience to parents).

:4 Children are a blessing from God (**Ps. 127:3-5**). Let the children come to Me (**Mk. 10:14**). You don’t own your children; they belong to God, a gift from Him.

John Stott: “Roman fathers had absolute control over His family. He could sell them as slaves, he could make them work in his fields even in chains, he could punish as he liked and could even inflict the death penalty. Further, the power of the Roman father extended over the child’s whole life so long as the father lived. Unwanted children were commonly left in the Roman forum. There they became the property of anyone who cared to pick them up.” Ancient civilization was merciless to the sickly or deformed child. Seneca writes, “Children who are born weakly and deformed were drown.”

From Jesus’ childhood: **Lk. 2:40,52**. A child must grow intellectually; his mind is a blank. He must grow physically; when he is born he is weak and physically undeveloped. Every child must grow socially, in favor with men. A child’s most

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dominant attitude is selfishness. He must be taught to share, to be considerate of others, not to put his interests above those of everyone else. Every child must grow spiritually, in favor with God; children do not know God naturally.

As a parent, be sure you're dealing with what needs to be dealt with in your own life first so you'll be an example of following Jesus as Lord. If you're a single mom, you can apply these truths to your role as a mom (**Heb. 11:23**). If you're a grandparent raising your grandchildren (2.8 million in the U.S.), you can also use these truths.

Fathers, do not provoke (present active imperative) **your children to anger**. Also see **Col. 3:21**. This is the action of the 'new man' in Christ that parents must put on.

Never free to express/explore/fail. Never compliment or encourage. Always tell what is wrong but never how to correct it. Using love as a tool of reward and punishment. Physical and mental abuse. Humiliating or ridiculing them. Comparing him/her with someone else, especially a sibling. Not taking time for them, to listen, to care, to discuss the uncomfortable. Never taking any time to teach them about the real issues of life. Inconsistent and unnecessary rules. Not meaning what you say. Repeating yourself several times before you mean it! Putting your child under law (it'll only make them sin more! Remember the law's purposes: to reveal sin, to condemn sin, to increase sin, and to drive us to Jesus.). You trying to make them carry out their role. Overprotect. Over-discipline. Overly restrictive. Never trust them to do things on their own, and continually question them. Failing to let them grow up at a normal pace. "The hurried child: makeup, achievement, athletics, gifted classes." Harshness & cruelty at one extreme or by favoritism & overindulgence at the other. 2 vindictive weapons: sarcasm & ridicule.

But bring them up (present active imperative). = bring to maturity, nourish, nurture, train. Also see **5:29**. God's kind of walk as a parent is only possible if we know Jesus as Lord and how to walk in the strength of the Spirit. Don't depend on the world/church/school/government to bring them up. Let your children know your Father. Communicate His & your love & forgiveness. His life through yours!

Get to know each one. Communicate love and acceptance. Meet them where they are (there is a bent, a set of characteristics already established). Take time to listen. Discuss the hard stuff. Eye contact, physical touch, focused attention. Spend time together. Have good family communication. Express appreciation to each other. Cultivate an environment in which children can thrive. By wise counsel, wholesome activity, varied routine, free discussion, very reasonable liberty, bring them up. "It is by experiment that children discover both the limits of their freedoms and the unconditional quality of your love."

One person at the end of his life: "I would love my wife more in front of my children. I would laugh with my children more, at our mistakes and our joys. I would listen more, even to the littlest child. I would be more honest about my own weaknesses, never pretending perfection. I would pray differently for my family; instead of focusing on them, I'd focus on me. I would do more things together with my children. I would encourage them more and bestow more praise. I would share God more intimately with my family."

Tell them Abraham's, Joseph's, David's, Jesus', YOUR story. Let your love show, a lot! Communicate acceptance and love based on who they ARE, and not on what they DO. Don't become consumed with external results, perfect

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behavior, appearance, and grades. Let them know your love whether they get an A or fail a test, whether they strike out or hit a home run. Affirm the positives. Set safe boundaries and carry out the consequences. It's not our role to make our children obey and honor. Yes, we can make them obey, outwardly (at least until they're bigger than us!), but that kind of forced obedience isn't pleasing to the Lord.

Write out 3-4 secure boundaries that are best for each child and also write out the consequence they will receive from either parent if they choose to disobey. Sit down with them and go through the boundaries and consequences. As your child grows, these boundaries and issues will change. If your child knows the pros and cons of an issue, let them decide. Then let them live with the results. If we make all the decisions for them or if we bail them out every time they fail, they will never learn to make decisions. Be consistent; keep your word. Always keep referring to the Lord Jesus and the indwelling Holy Spirit as God's answers to their walk. Give your teenager the right to fail.

Pictures, books, magazines, TV programs you watch, music.

in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Study **Heb. 12:5-12** to see how necessary discipline is. Then discipline as God disciplines and instructs us. God doesn't always spank us! How we disciplined. Undisciplined children feel neglected and insecure and feel they need to take over the controls. Biblical discipline includes correcting in love. In the strength of the Spirit and exercised in love. A child should never be disciplined when the parent is angry. When your child disobeys, carry out the consequences, but also show them that there's the need for a Deliverer, and God has given us one! There's a general opposition to the whole idea of justice and righteousness; this view is that human nature is essentially good. If man is essentially good, he does not need to be born again.

And instruction, = to put in mind. By your words, encourage, teach, reprove, correct (**2 Tim. 3:16-17**). Put God's truth in their minds and let them do their own thinking and make choices. Biblical principles for making decisions. When we had 'devotions', we let the kids play with toys. Teach your child what genuine Christianity is; how to become a Christian; how to walk by faith and how to be filled with the Spirit; the forgiveness and victory cycles; the Biblical purposes of law. His/her identity in Christ and in the Spirit if he/she is a Christian. His/her identity in Adam and in the flesh if he/she is not a Christian. Teach them how to deal with the world, the flesh, and the devil/demons. Teach them how to handle sin and failure. Teach them how to handle success. Show them how to solve problems in a crisis. Give them Biblical principles to use when dealing with non-Biblical issues. FHIDLS, ECRAT, identity circles, forgiveness and victory cycles. The writer of Proverbs taught them how to handle things like money and laziness and temptation.

Let your children know their worth is inherent: based on being created in the image of God and His love for them, their value in Christ, and their value simply as your children. Help them reach their absolute potential as individuals. Let them know they are created in the likeness of God, their value to Him (we are valuable simply because we are God-fashioned gifts; He's our Creator, our God, our Savior); He loves them. Guide their reading, be ready to answer their questions. Live and teach Biblical truths before the child. Introduce them to Jesus! Give your children the truth that a relationship with the Lord Jesus is the most wonderful

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We carry out these 3 commands (**Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21**) because our Master has told us how to walk as a parent. We obey, not because we have to, but because of our living relationship with Jesus. Have them in Sunday school, youth groups, camps, but you are responsible for their instruction. If you don't know what's being taught in these groups, attend them, ask their teachers.

Of the Lord: it should be 'Christian' training, according to the teaching of His Word, by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, & to His own glory & honor.

CONCL TO :1-4 If you read :4 and say, "I've messed up royally!", welcome to the group! Confess your sin to our forgiving, restoring Lord Jesus, and go on from there in His strength. Go to your child, confess your wrong, and ask him/her to forgive you. Begin knowing your child. Remember, parenting is not about control, but nurturing, training, and instruction. Their wills can be guided but they can't be controlled.

"The primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency: The father's firm, fair, & consistent instruction & discipline; the mother's supervision & companionship during the day; the parents' demonstrated affection for each other and for the children; and, the family's spending time together in activities where all participate." Failure to be a consistent model. Failure to admit when you are wrong.

We can't 'make' them obey & honor & it's not our role, but show them there are blessings for honoring and obedient decisions & consequences for wrong choices.

No matter your occupation or circumstance, serve the Lord Jesus! He's mentioned in every verse from :5-9. Work is not the curse! Work is given by God, and is important, good, and valuable. It allows us to earn a living, provide for our families, and help others in need (**4:28**).

:5-9 Slave/employee, be obedient. Master/boss, you have a Master too

:5 **Slaves**, who had no legal rights; treated as if they were animals or tools. **Be obedient** (present active imperative) **to those who are your masters**. During this season of your life, our Lord has placed you where you are for you to do your work to the best of your ability. **According to the flesh:** It's a temporary arrangement, only as long as you are in your bodies. **Lk. 12:4:** Human slavery applied only to the bodies of men and not to their souls and spirits. In **Col. 3:22** it is replaced by **fearing the Lord**. Same phrase in **Phil. 2:12 Work out your salvation with fear and trembling**. As a worker you may not be able to change your circumstances, but you can have a godly attitude and response whatever your relationship. You can practice **4:25-5:21. In the sincerity of your heart:** be obedient wholeheartedly, from the heart! Jesus has given you a new heart!

:6 **Not by way of eye service, as men-pleasers**, an eye-slave. The Spirit-filled worker, who recognizes who God has made him/her, and is aware of the Lordship and presence of Jesus doesn't need to be checked up on or forced to do his job!

But as slaves of Christ: It is the Holy Spirit who is at work in us and through us to make every part of our work 'holy' activity, pleasing to the Lord Himself! You don't steal time, arrive late, depart early, take prolonged breaks, lie. See **4:25-5:21**.

As a Christian, you should be the same on Wednesday as you are on Sunday! You have more influence with non-Christians in one week than they would get if they came to the church every Sunday for a year!

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Doing (present active participle) **the will of God from the heart (psuchēs)**: Hard work is God's will (4:28). Doing the best with what you have.

:7 With good will rendering service (present active participle) **as to the Lord**. Your service is to the Master Jesus **and not to men**.

:8 Remind yourself of **3:16-19**. GOD knows; GOD rewards! **Whether slave or free**: whether you're a slave or an employee. This is true freedom, even if the chains are still on! Don't fear those who can kill the body (**Mt. 10:28**).

:9 And masters, do (present active imperative) **the same things to them**. You carry out the will of God from the heart also; you deal with your employees according to their best interests. **See Col. 4:1** "Masters, grant to your slaves justice and fairness." Treat them as people; listen to their problems; do the best for them.

And give up (present active participle) **threatening**. Don't be constantly holding over your workers some kind of threat.

Knowing (perfect active participle) **that both their Master and yours is in heaven** (the invisible spiritual kingdom of God). Although you're a human master of men, both you and your employees are slaves of the same Lord Jesus.

And there is no partiality with Him. Lit. to receive face. No teacher's pets! He doesn't look at who you are or what your title is before deciding how to treat you. He won't look at your position or salary; He will ask how you treated your brothers/sisters. **Col. 3:17** says, "**Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**"

CONCL TO :5-9 The solution to labor relations must begin with God's solution: salvation through Jesus as Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We in the strength of the indwelling Holy Spirit are to accept our roles. We show the watching world what a difference it makes to be a follower of the Lord Jesus. At your workplace, "God has constructed a holy stage for you to play your part for 40 hours a week to teach the world what it means to worship Him and be truly human."

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And there is no partiality with Him. Lit. to receive face. No teacher's pets! He doesn't look at who you are or what your title is before deciding how to treat you. He won't look at your position or salary; He will ask how you treated your brothers/sisters. **Col. 3:17** says, "**Whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through Him to God the Father.**"

CONCL TO :5-9 The solution to labor relations must begin with God's solution: salvation through Jesus as Lord and the power of the Holy Spirit.

We in the strength of the indwelling Holy Spirit are to accept our roles. We show the watching world what a difference it makes to be a follower of the Lord Jesus. At your workplace, "God has constructed a holy stage for you to play your part for 40 hours a week to teach the world what it means to worship Him and be truly human."