



Ephesians 6:1-9 The Obedient Life

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Easy warm-up questions (choose one)

1. What was one thing your parents did well in raising you?
2. What was the worst job you ever had?

Paul's Child/Parents/Father Illustration 6:1-4

1. Briefly walk through Paul's illustration. What are his main ideas?
2. What does Paul mean by obedience? Why is this a struggle? (Try to avoid the default answer of "sin" by describing what struggles you've experienced either as a child or as a parent. What complicates our relationship as children and parents?)
3. Fathers have a greater role in raising children than do mothers. AGREE WAFFLE DISAGREE
4. What in Paul's illustration can be helpful for you as a child/parent/father (as appropriate)?
5. What in Paul's illustration of child/parents/father relationships is applicable to our life together as a congregation?

Paul's Slave/Master Illustration 6:5-9

The default application of Paul's illustration is the comparison to employee/employer relations. While there are some helpful insights to be gained in that comparison, the intensity of relationship between a slave and master is integral to the weight of Paul's illustration and should not be discarded in order to make a more contemporary application.

1. How difficult might it have been, given the relationship of a slave and a master, to be brothers (or sisters, etc.) in Christ by God's grace?
2. Briefly walk through Paul's illustration. What are his main ideas?
3. How does what Paul writes here conflict with the cultural norms of the Roman Empire?
4. What in Paul's illustration might have been helpful to a Christian slave and a Christian master who were trying to work out the harsh realities of their relationship?
5. What in Paul's illustration of the slave/master relationship is applicable to our life together as a congregation?

Processing all that...

1. Using the image of Bob Philips' book title, "The Delicate Art of Dancing with Porcupines,"¹ what are some of our quills?
2. How can what Paul is teaching in this section of his letter help us to "dance" better as a congregation?
3. What is the upside (incredible potential/results) if we do?

1. Bob Philips, *The Delicate Art of Dancing With Porcupines: Learning to Appreciated the Finer Points of Others* (Ventura, CA: Regal Books, 1989)