

“God’s Timeline Or Yours”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Saul was ordained King of Israel by God, but he made some poor choices which had devastating consequences.



... Saul remained at Gilgal, and all the troops with him were quaking with fear. 8 He waited ... but Samuel did not come ... So he said, "Bring me the burnt offering and the fellowship offerings." And Saul offered up the burnt offering. 10 Just as he finished making the offering, Samuel arrived, and Saul went out to greet him. 11 "What have you done?" asked Samuel. Saul replied, "When I saw that the men were scattering, and that you did not come at the set time, and that the Philistines were assembling at Micmash, 12 I thought, 'Now the Philistines will come down against me at Gilgal, and I have not sought the LORD's favor.' So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering." 13 "You acted foolishly," Samuel said. "You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you; if you had, he would have established your kingdom over Israel for all time." 14 But now your kingdom will not endure; the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart and appointed him leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD's command." 1 Sam. 13:7-14 NIV (emphasis added)

Foot-
notes:

God has a particular timeline on which he wants things to occur. Obedience to him keeps us on that timeline. One thing that can take us off of that timeline is fear. Unfortunately King Saul is not the only person who got afraid or allowed himself to be influenced by fearful people. We must trust God regardless of how much it looks like God’s timeline seems to be too slow. Let us remind ourselves of all of the times in our lives that it seemed like things were hopeless, then SUDDENLY, God came through in a way we would never have considered. He knows our needs and the desires of our hearts, and he is trustworthy. Let us eradicate fear from our lives, and choose to obey him explicitly and trust God’s timing in every part of our lives.

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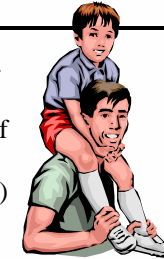
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...with The Sojourner

“Family & Work Relationships” (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 6:1-9 (AMP)



The Apostle Paul continues here in Ephesians Chapter 6 to cover two of the most important areas of earthly relationships 1) child—parent and 2) servant—master.

We see here that what we do can have, as a consequence, an influence on the number of days we will be able to enjoy (having things go well) living in this life.

Notes:

Paul brings out in demonstrative form this aspect of the “two-edged sword” of God’s word.

The family and work relationships taught here, by the Apostle Paul, as well as those he brought out in Chapter 5 regarding wives and husbands, are some of the core behaviors which make believers peculiar to those not in Christ.

Children

The Ephesians’ children are admonished to:

- Obey^[a] parents
- Honor parents

They are to do so as the Old Testament commanded. The doing of this, honoring parents, they were assured, would lead to a longer life.

Fathers
Paul lets the Ephesians know that not only the children have a responsibility to relationship, but the other side of this blade of truth is Fathers/parents are not to do certain things:

- Do not irritate
 - Do not provoke
 - Do not exasperate
- Paul cautions parents against doing these things which would bring about resentment in their children/charges. Parents are given the rearing of children only for a time so that children may learn of God, God’s kingdom, and God’s ways.

It may be good to point out that, in his words to children he included only positive instructions. There were some positive instructions

[a] Hu-pakouo; to *hear under* (as a *subordinate*), that is, to *listen attentively*; by implication to *heed* or *conform* to a command or authority:—*hearken, be obedient to, obey*.

Please note: This is a teaching sketch only and not the complete teaching.

Scripture:

Ephesians 6:1-9 (AMP)

1CHILDREN, OBEY your parents in the Lord [as His representatives], for this is just and right.
 2Honor (esteem and value as precious) your father and your mother--this is the first commandment with a promise--^(a) 3That all may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.
 4Fathers, do not irritate and provoke your children to anger [do not exasperate them to resentment], but rear them [tenderly] in the training and discipline and the counsel and admonition of the Lord.
 5Servants (slaves), be obedient to those who are your physical masters, having respect for them and eager concern to please them, in singleness of motive and with all your heart, as [service] to Christ

Notes:

^(a) Exodus 20:12

[Himself]--
 6Not in the way of eye-service [as if they were watching you] and only to please men, but as servants (slaves) of Christ, doing the will of God heartily and with your whole soul;
 7Rendering service readily with goodwill, as to the Lord and not to men,
 8Knowing that for whatever good anyone does, he will receive his reward from the Lord, whether he is slave or free.
 9You masters, act on the same [principle] toward them and give up threatening and using violent and abusive words, knowing that He Who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no respect of persons (no partiality) with Him.

“Family & work Relationships” (Teaching Sketch)

Ephesians 6:1-9 (AMP)

Paul gave to the parents.

- Rear tenderly
- Train
- Discipline
- Counsel
- Admonition of the Lord

Notes:

Servants

Paul tells the servants or slaves in the church at Ephesus (showing the broad spectrum of believers found in fellowship there) they needed to be:

- Obedient
- Respectful
- Eager to please
- Single of motive
- Servant’s heart
- As unto Christ

Masters

It is very interesting to note Paul tells the Masters to behave with the same principles toward the servants! He tells them not to be violent or verbally abusive because the Lord is Master of both!

Relationships Responsibility

When people understand the “two-edged” sword of God’s word, they realize relationships have built-in responsibilities for all people and God is Love!