

**January 12, 2024**  
**Ephesians 6:1-9 "Because It Is Right"**

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION**

**V 1**, Paul wrote this verse directly to the children. Children were present in the congregation.

"Parents who do not fully and tirelessly commit themselves to the godly teaching and training of their children are likely to wake up one day to find their sons and daughters inextricably enmeshed in the ungodly and immoral philosophies and practices of the world." *John MacArthur*

In regard to some good Christian kids dying young one author wrote; "Divine providence is full problems for our finite minds." *R. C. H. Lenski*

**Colossians 3:21**, "Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so that they won't become discouraged." To exasperate is to provoke to anger. Give unreasonable demands and watch this behavior manifest right before your eyes. Provide for their physical needs and very importantly, their spiritual needs. They need a godly head of household in charge of the home.

1. Do not argue with children, be the head of the household, be the parent.
2. Always treat your child with respect, the child will grow up to reciprocate this.
3. Seize teachable moments, clarify right and wrong, teach good decision making.
4. Treat each child and each situation with consistent discipline. Do not threaten discipline that they know will never come. Let them know, violate a set boundary and you will suffer consequences. The child will then respect parents and authority.
5. Do ask for a child's opinion, value them in this regard. Let them know that you as parent are approachable. Teach them to be respectful; teach them to think before they speak.
6. Teach them to value others. Respectful children grow up to be respectful adults.

At this time the population of Rome was made up of one-third slaves; an estimated 60 million of them. As the gospel spread many slaves and masters became Christians. Onesimus was a slave of Philemon for example. Paul is addressing them as equals as far as being believers. The world treated them as property/tools to do their bidding. God is no respecter of persons.

**Application:**

Well, Preacher, I don't know what to do or how to go about it It can be a tough raising kids, unless, you have an instruction Book! Imagine the toughest puzzle you ever put together. Now imagine if that puzzle came with no picture on the box! That is why we need to immerse ourselves in the study of the Word of God. It's not easy, no one ever said it would be. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you, see **James 4:8**. The Bible, God's kid raising manual.

Recommended reading: *Shepherding A Child's Heart* By Tedd Tripp ISBN 0966378601