

**The Truth About Our Life in Christ**  
*A Study in the Book of Ephesians*  
**“In Christ” at Home and Beyond**  
Ephesians 6:1-9  
**Study Questions**

### **Opening Discussion**

1. List all the ways we are to be submissive to those in authority on any given day. Is it possible to function well in our culture without submitting to authority? Is it possible to even drive to the grocery store without practicing submission?
2. Where is submission to authority first learned? How? What did you experience growing up in relation to authority and submission?
3. On a scale of 1-10 (1 being terrible and 10 being very good) how would you rate how you currently deal with authority issues? This should include both how you respond to those in authority over you and how you use the authority you've been given over someone else. Why did you rate yourself where you did?

### **Bible Study**

1. Read Ephesians 5:1 - 6:9 to capture the flow of thought. Notice that after the discussion of mutual submission as a mark of Spirit-filled behavior, Paul identifies specific examples:

- Wives v. 22
- Husbands v. 25
- Children v. 1
- Fathers v. 4
- Slaves v. 5
- Masters v. 9

In each instance Paul is saying that although there is mutual submission, there are also God-ordained roles that must be carried out and respected by all in Christ. Go through and identify all the instances where Paul refers to “Christ” or “Lord” in 6:1-9. In what way do these references take us back to 4:1, which takes us back to chapters 1-3?

2. Notice that Paul doesn't instruct others to tell wives, children, slaves these things. He assumes they will be in the worship and hear the letter read themselves. He speaks directly to these groups. This was quite radical. The distinctions that kept them segmented were no longer in effect in Christ. How does this relate to what he said in 4:1-6 and 5:17-19?
3. Read Romans 1:30 and 2 Timothy 3:1,2. How do these verses relate to Paul's teaching of “Spirit-filled” behavior in 6:1-3?

4. Read Hebrews 12:1-13. What do parents (especially fathers) teach their children about God by the way they discipline their children? Contrast good discipline with poor discipline and what each teaches children about their heavenly Father.

How does Ephesians 5:1 fit in this discussion?

5. How does 5:5-8 compare with Romans 13:1-7 and I Peter 2:18-25? Summarize how we should respond to those in authority over us in the marketplace.

Paul taught us that a wife should be able to say to her children, “How I respond to your dad is how we all should respond to Jesus.” In the same way, any employee should be able to say to fellow employees, “If you want to know how we should respond to Jesus, it’s how I respond to our boss (5:6,7).”

6. According to 6:9 any employer or person in authority over another should be able to say, “If you want to know how Jesus treats us, it’s how I treat you.” In each case we are to be “imitators of God” (5:1).

## **Application**

1. For those who have children at home, what are you teaching your children about God by the way you discipline your children? What specifically do you need to work on?
2. For those who don’t have children at home, what beliefs about God might you have learned in the past by the way you were disciplined growing up? Is it possible you hold some misperceptions about God and His discipline because of how you were disciplined?
3. How are you doing in the marketplace these days? Do you respond to those in authority as you would respond to Jesus? What one specific thing can you work on to improve your attitude or behavior at work this week? For those who have authority over others, how are you reflecting Christ and His authority over us by the way you are treating those you have authority over? What one thing can you work on this week to improve?
4. Spend some time in prayer committing yourselves to becoming better “imitators of God” in the roles He has given you.