

the TAKE HOME 08.16.15

Today's Scripture Passage: Ephesians 6:1-9

P 829-830 Pew Bible

1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **2** "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- **3** "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." **4** Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. **5** Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. **6** Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. **7** Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, **8** because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. **9** And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

Our Fallen Condition:

Relationships where there is an imbalance of power can create tension, conflict, and pain when we mishandle the power dynamics for our own benefit and not Christ's.

Questions for Reflection & Discussion

- Students: Are you really listening to your parents?
- Adult children: What does it mean to honor your father and mother?
- Parents: Is your training and instruction in the Lord sufficient so you can train and instruct your kids?
- Workers/followers: Are you serving wholeheartedly as if you were working for the Lord?
- Employers/Leaders: Are you treating your employees/followers the way the Lord treats you?