

To Go

Submitting to One
Another: Children and
Parents, Slaves and Masters
Ephesians 6:1-9

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1. Have you ever been in a subordinate role that challenged you? What made it difficult? How did you handle it? What would you do differently if you had another chance at the relationship?
2. Read Ephesians 6:1–4. What are Paul’s challenges to children and parents? Why are these roles difficult to fulfill? What motivation does Paul provide for fulfilling them?
3. Read Ephesians 6:5–9. What are Paul’s challenges to slaves and masters? How do slaves and masters correlate within our western, 21st century models? Why do relationships between “slaves and masters” so often break down? How does Paul challenge slaves to fulfill their roles? How is this different or the same as what he says to masters?
4. Read the book of Philemon (it’s only one chapter). What does this short book tell us about God’s view of those in subordinate roles?
5. In what ways do you struggle to submit to authority? How can you do so in the Lord as slaves of Christ in increasing measure? In what ways do you struggle to fulfill your role as a leader in your home or workplace? Ask God to help you to do so in a Christ-honoring way in all your relationships. Write down one specific action item for each role (whether leadership or subordinate) that the Lord brings to mind.