

Easy As 1-2-3



Ephesians 6:1-12 ¹

It's As Easy As 1-2-3

Select where you would like to begin and enjoy!

1-Overall Understanding (below)

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Overall Understanding

Paul continues his instructions to individuals in relationship to each other.

Ephesians 18-33²

¹Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with promise: ³“that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.”

Paul did not instruct wives to “obey” their husbands. This is a word still commonly used in some wedding vows. Women are adults, and their submission is voluntary.

But children are to obey their parents. Even the Old Covenant taught that honoring one’s parents came with a promise of longevity and prosperity. How much more so under the New Covenant, which is better and has better promises.

As adults, we do not “obey” our parents, but we do honor them. The [Detailed Study Notes](#) explain that this means we support them financially as they get older.

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⁴And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

This echoes the previous section, a wife is told to respect her husband, and a husband is told to love and care for his wife. Here, after admonishing the child, the father is told not to provoke but to train his child.

⁵Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether *he is* a slave or free.

This is not an endorsement of slavery. It reflects the society of that time. For a variety of reasons, a person might become a slave. It was a very common way for someone to pay off a debt. Often, slaves would continue to serve their masters after the debt was paid.

Slaves were to obey their masters from the heart as if serving the Lord. This instruction came with a promise of being recompensed by the Lord.

⁹And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

Masters are commanded to treat their bondservants with respect and not be threatening. God is our Master, so be a loving master, remembering you also have a Master in heaven.

A possible application can be made by how we relate with our employers and how employers should treat their employees.

¹⁰Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

Although the enemy has been defeated, he still attempts to run interference in our relationships with God. The [Detailed Study Notes](#) give a great summation of who the devil is and who he is not.

In this life, we can get distracted in our relationship and begin to think that our spouse, child, employer, and employee are our enemies. But Paul says that we don't fight humans. We stand against our common enemy in the power of the Lord. So we may cease strife and pray instead.

Coming Up in Chapter 6:13-24

In the next lesson, we will discuss the weapons of our warfare and finish our study in Ephesians.