

1. Counsel to children

- a) Ephesians 6:1-3 Is this counsel for dependent children still living at home with their parents or children of any age?
- b) What does it mean to obey your parents “in the Lord”?
- c) What does Paul’s quotation of the 5th commandment teach us about the role of the Ten Commandments in our growth in grace? (See also Ephesians 4:25,28)

2. Counsel to Parents

- a) Ephesians 6:4 What are some ways a parent can provoke a child to become angry?
- b) What happens to children when the behavior of parents provokes them to anger? Colossians 3:21
- c) How can we help traumatized children find freedom and healing from their painful past?
- d) What impresses you about Paul’s counsel that both the training and admonition of children needs to be “of the Lord”?
- e) Why is it important to reflect the loving, merciful character of our Heavenly Father when interacting with and disciplining our children?

3. Counsel to Slaves/Bondservants

- a) Ephesians 6:5 Is the Apostle Paul endorsing slavery here or simply addressing a present reality that existed in Ephesus?
- b) What does Paul’s counsel to Philemon reveal about Paul’s attitude

toward slavery? Philemon 10-17

- c) Have you ever been oppressed by an earthly master or harsh employer? How did your relationship with Christ enable you to see beyond the present hardship?

4. Counsel to earthly masters/employers

- a) Ephesians 6:9a What are “the same things” earthly masters are to do to their slaves? (See Ephesians 6:5—Treat them in sincerity of heart, as to Christ)
- b) What forms of slavery still exist in your culture?
- c) How active should Christians be in seeking to eradicate the evil of slavery in all its forms?
- d) While slavery still exists in various forms around the world, Paul’s counsel can also be applied to employers and their relationship with their employees. If the Lord Jesus is Master of both, how should this truth impact the way we relate to those under our supervision? John 13:34
- e) Why is threatening or bullying others an inappropriate behavior for followers of Jesus?
- f) What counsel would you give to a friend who is being threatened or abused by an employer?

