

# SERMON OUTLINE

## GOD HAS A PLAN—AND WE'RE PART OF IT "God's Plan for Society" Ephesians 6:1-9

No. 2974

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A major part of life is spent in the family and at work. Relationships in these environments are critically important. Societal change has taken place since Ephesians was written, but the spiritual principles for societal living outlined are still relevant.

### I. God's Plan for Relationships in the Home. vv. 1-4

#### A. The instructions for children. vv. 1-3

1. Children are to obey parents because it is "right."
  - a. Those who are old enough to have made a Christian commitment.
  - b. Those who are young enough to be "brought up."
  - c. Those who are mature enough to know "right" from "wrong."
2. Children are to obey parents because they are "in the Lord."
3. Children are to obey parents because the Law requires it.
  - a. Obedience is one way to "honor your parents."
  - b. Honoring parents has practical as well as spiritual ramifications.
4. Children are to obey parents because this pleases the Lord. Colossians 3:20

#### B. The instructions for fathers (parents). v. 4

1. Parental authority assumed, but ancient fathers had vast powers.
2. Fathers must not exasperate, embitter, discourage children. Colossians 3:21
3. Fathers must oversee the child's discipline and spiritual training.

### II. God's Plan for Relationships in the Workplace. vv. 5-9

#### A. The instructions for "slaves." vv. 5-8

1. First-century slavery was a reality the early church had to face.
2. Slaves must respectfully, sincerely obey as they would Christ.
3. Slaves' motivation is Christ-serving and God-pleasing.
4. Slaves' attitude is enthusiastic because God directed, not because man dictated.
5. Slaves' orientation is heavenward because God's rewards are eternal.

#### B. The instructions for "masters." v. 9

1. Exalted social status does not give you superior standing with God.
2. All are equal under the heavenly mastery of the Lord.
3. Masters must desist from abusing and exhibit Christ-serving behavior.

#### C. The application for modern bosses and "bossees."

**Point to Ponder:** Does my home life and my work life reflect Christian commitment?