

Paul's Letter to
The Ephesians



Lesson 6-Children, Faithful work, and Christian Armor for the Conflict Focus: Ephesians 6:1-24

1. The relationship between Children and Parents/Parents and Children (v.1-4)

- a. (v.1-3) **Children must obey and respect their parents.** This is one of God's Ten Commandments (the 5th Commandment). This is the right thing. The Parents are the first authority figure a child ever encounters in their life. From this relationship, a child will develop an attitude and disposition towards authority. They will either learn how to respect and obey the proper authorities or they will can off all restraint and learn how to manipulate, overrun, and disrespect all authority figures in society, including God himself. A child must learn to obey their parents. **Children should not be allowed to manipulate or to "push over" their parents.** The Children should develop a healthy respect for the loving, guiding, nurturing, and yet firm authority of their parents. Children must be disciplined; a failure to do this is sin on our part (1 Samuel 3:13). **As we grow older, we still need to respect and care for our parents** (this is only right). In the days of Jesus, there were some religious leaders who tried to write off men's responsibility to their parents. **Jesus reprimanded these men for breaking and dishonoring the commandments of God to their own destruction** (Ref. Mark 7:7-13). It is true that our parents are to guide us through our younger life, and they also give assistance to us in our older years. However, when you do start a family of your own, your parents should not be running or interfering with all the details of your family's life. The Bible says, "...a man shall leave father and mother, and cleave [be joined] unto his wife; and they two shall be one flesh" (Genesis 2:24). Love and respect your parents, but remember also there is a sacred family circle between the newly formed husband and wife which is not to be broken or trampled down parental relationships. Parent's are to support and help children keep a sound family; but they should not meddle to interfere or harm delicate family relationships. **The only times when we should not respect or obey counsel from our earthly parents is when it crosses over the boundary of righteousness in God's eyes.** If a parent suggests that we do something evil, against the command of God, they have no right. **We must obey God first—He is our HEAVENLY PARENT (Father) and we are to obey His words first and foremost!!**
- b. (v.4) **Fathers (Parents) do not provoke your children to wrath.** We must not be overbearing with children. We must not be dishonest or unfair with children but we should teach them the right way, lovingly, patiently, and honestly. Sometimes parents are guiltier than the children for causing problems with their kids. We must not "provoke" them to wrath and rebellion. We must not over push them in matters of accomplishment. We must be fair and careful to deal rightly with kids, remembering that **Children belong to God first**; we are only caretakers of them for a time, so we must report responsibly to God for all that we've done with our kids. Did we train them up rightly? Did we treat them and discipline them rightly? **Nurture and admonish them "in the Lord."** **This is the sacred duty of parents; to instill in their children a fear, love, and reverence for our Most Holy Creator.** (See Deuteronomy 6:6,7)

2. The relationship between Servants and Masters & Masters and Servants (v.5-9)

- a. (v.5-8) **The relationship of Servants to their Masters:** We should work faithfully, diligently, and well as if we were working to God Himself. Do righteously in everything. Be a faithful worker. Do not merely seek to satisfy man's sliding rules and standards, but rather, seek to satisfy God's righteous standards. And so, you will "...increase...in favor with God and man" as did Jesus (Luke 2:52). The Spirit of God's

faithful ones who work in any number of positions or places is greatly admired and sought after by every employer (See Daniel 6:3). *A righteous life and an honest work ethic will bring glory and honor to the name of God.*

- b. (v.9) **The relationship of Masters to their Servants:** As a manager or boss we must be very faithful and good to our employees. Treat them well with love, righteousness, and consideration for their well-being. *Do not play favorites with certain people employed under you, but rather, treat them with equality and fairness. Be sure also to pay them promptly at the appointed time for their labors. You might have extra money at the end of the month, but their bread, water, and shelter depends upon the prompt receipt of the monies they've earned (See Leviticus 19:13; Deuteronomy 24:14,15).*

3. **Fighting a Spiritual Warfare with God's Spiritual Weapons and Armor (v.10-17)**

- a. (v.10-12) **Be strong in the Lord and His power.** We are currently in the midst of the greatest conflict ever fought—the battle between our Righteous God and the enemy of all righteousness—Satan. Satan and his evil host of angels seek to destroy every soul and to bring scores of people into the ranks of Satanic rebellion against our Creator! *This war began in heaven when Satan decided to worship and serve himself instead of God. It will continue until Jesus delivers His people and finally destroys the devil and all his followers in the Lake of fire at the end of the 1000 years (See Revelation 12:7-9,12; 1 Peter 5:8; Rev. 20:9,10,14,15). **There is a Spiritual warfare going on! There is wickedness in high places. Not everything will meet the eye exactly, but these spiritual beings are at war just under the radar screen.***
- b. (v.13-17) **"The Whole Armor of God" is needed to stand against the forces of evil.** We cannot stand alone! Harder days are coming (v.13)—**do all, to stand!** Be covered with the "truth" and Christ's "righteousness" in our lives (both covering us, and being lived out in our lives). (v.14)—**give "aggressive service" in sharing the gospel**—have your feet prepared to "Go" and share that message with the entire world!! (Romans 10:15). Faith, God's word, and a helmet of true saving knowledge is to be upon us! Have true assurance that Christ is your Savior and that you are safely abiding in Him (Romans 5:1; 1 John 2:3; 3:14,19,24). *Is it so with your soul? Make it so dear friend.*

- 4. **The necessity of Continual Prayer Life and specific requests (v.18-20)** *The weapon of prayer in MOST ESSENTIAL in the combat against sin!! **We must "pray always"** "with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit" "watching" for the answers from God if we ever expect to have victories in our lives. Paul requested special prayer for the work of ministry through him. **We must be connected with the arm of Infinite Power—the Omnipotent God**—if we would ever be effective to teach and preach the gospel to others "as we should!" **And not just our own prayers**—we need the prayers of others as well. We are to pray for one another and lift up our ministers and fellow Christian brothers and sisters in prayer! (v.20—Paul mentions his "bonds" (chains) as he was currently imprisoned; beyond that fact, he was also a bond-servant to the Lord—"Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel"—1 Cor. 9:16).*

- 5. **Concluding thoughts to the church of Ephesus (v.21-24)** *In closing thoughts, Paul states how Tychicus will come to the Ephesians to make known more news to them about Paul. Both labor at a distance and labor up close and personal were needed (v.22)—the presence of Tychicus coming to the Ephesians was going to bring comfort to their hearts. Peace, blessing, and grace was wished to all those who "love our Lord Jesus Christ in sincerity" (v.24). **Being sincere, matters!!** Are you?*

Question (s) for the Heart:

Is it your desire and commitment to "pray always," to wear the Christian's armor, and to live for Jesus in all areas of your life? _____ Jesus calls us to this today; He invites us to take hold of eternal life through Him, and to live our lives for the furtherance of His blessed, eternal Kingdom. Will you do so today? _____