

EPHESIANS 6

Children and Parents roles/relationships (vs. 1-4)

Vs. 1-4– First of all in **verses 1-4** we find a balance – children are to obey their parents and the parents are to treat their children in such a way that their children will want to obey. And this not only means that children have the responsibility to obey, but parents have the responsibility to teach their children obedience – one of the most important jobs for a parent. We don't need to teach our children how to disobey because each one was born with a sin nature they have inherited from Adam – but obedience must be taught. The phrase “*in the Lord*” cannot be overlooked; this is a command to parents to teach their children *the ways of the Lord from the Scriptures*. **Vs. 2-3** highlights this command also comes with a blessed promise as stated in the 10 commandments – read ***Deuteronomy 5:16***. Now what it means to *honor our father and mother* may change as we grow into adulthood, but the principle always endures. The adult child does not owe the parent *obedience*, but they do owe the parent *honor*. They do not have to do what their parents say, but they should be honorable in how they disagree. **Vs. 4** teaches us that parents should not be unreasonably severe or hard with children or ridicule them. Parents are to train their children in the ways of the Lord and how to live in

this world and not torment them. When a parent is disciplining a child, they need to exercise self-control (never discipline while you are angry).

(Christian servants vs. 5-9)

This is a passage of Scripture in many cases, has been hijacked of its authorial intent. Slaveowners in Colonial America used these verses minus the authorial intent of the Gospel writer. The Gospel found slavery in the world; and in many regions, particularly the Roman and the Greek, and it was a very bad form of slavery. The Gospel began at once to undermine it, with its mighty principles of the equality of all souls in the mystery and dignity of manhood, and of the equal work of redeeming love wrought for all souls by the supreme Master. The Gospel taught everyone was made in the image of God and each one was fearfully and wonderfully made. So once the Gospel was accepted; it undermines slavery and shined the light on it that its practice had to be abolished if one is to live out the essence of the Gospel. When the Gospel is preached liberty will be an end result; how we treat people is critically important to Jesus and is one of the major signs that validate we are a disciple of Jesus.

Vs. 5 – The Bible is not approving master/slave relationships; the word here for servants undoubtedly refers to Christian slaves, but we may certainly apply these words to the Christian employee/employer relationship today.

Paul admonishes the servants to be obedient because they really were serving Christ. The employee should show proper respect for the employer and not try and take advantage of him. The phrase “*as to Christ*” should change our entire perspective as workers. It reminds us that our work can and should be done as if we were working for Jesus – because we are!

Vs. 6-7 – Plainly stated **vs. 6** says, we are not to work with eyeservice (*working only when the boss is looking*) or as men-pleasers (*those who only care about pleasing man*), but with good will (*a good attitude, not complaining*) doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men (*servants and employees should serve faithfully even when no one is looking; after all God sees all that we do*). Grace enables us to do the business of heaven while we are attending to the business of earth: it sanctifies the common duties of life by showing us how to perform them in the light of heaven.

Vs. 8 - God will return to us in the measure that we have worked hard for others; He will not allow our hard work to go without reward. We are to serve Christ and not men; and conversely; we shall receive our most blessed rewards from Christ and not men. Grandma used to say, she was sending up her timber as she did the will of the Lord especially, in difficult situations. Get volunteer to read **1 Corinthians 2:9**.

Vs. 9 – This verse highlights how employers should walk in the light: treating their workers well. Just as servants (employees) are to work hard and honestly for their masters (employer), so masters (employers) are to do the same on behalf of those who work for them. When both the employees and the employers are serving the Lord and seeking to please the Lord; in this way they are able to work together for the glory of God. What makes this so

difficult is the fact it takes both Christian employees and Christian employers for this to work. Most employers are most concern with the bottom line - profit and loss; productivity; and they could care less how they get there. The Bible teaches *for the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil – 1 Timothy 6:10*. No employee should work in an environment where threats, verbal abuse, and sexual harassment are prevalent.

Put on the Whole Armor of God (vs. 10-20)

Paul is writing in this section about spiritual warfare. Spiritual warfare can be defined as the conflict in the invisible realm that effects what you are going through in the visible realm. It's the battle in the unseen that is responsible for battles in the seen. Satan and his demons are real, and they don't fight fair. To withstand the attacks from the evil one, we must depend on God's strength and be armed with every "spiritual" piece of armor described in verses 14-18.

Vs. 10-11 – When Paul says, "***Finally***" it means that he speaks in light of all he has previously said. In other words, *in light of all that God has done for you. In light of the glorious standing you have as a child of God. In light of His great plan of the ages that God has made you part of. In light of the plan for Christian maturity and growth He gives to you. In light of the conduct God calls every believer to live. In light of the filling of the Spirit and our walk in the Spirit. In light of all this, there is a battle to fight in the Christian life.*

Next Paul says we are to "*be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might.*"

Paul is alluding to the fact victory is in Christ Jesus, not in man's strength.

Notice **vs. 11** says, "*that you MAY be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.*"

In other words, no armor – no victory...if we don't stand in Christ's strength

- no victory...in our human strength Satan defeats us almost every time.

Romans soldiers were known for being disciplined, trained, alert, and

prepared...they went into battle always properly equipped. The Roman

soldier's armor was designed to protect the vital organs. God does not throw

Christians unprotected into the battleground against Satan's empire. God has

provided all that we need for complete protection of mind, heart, soul, spirit,

conscience, and will. But we must put on that armor, piece by piece –

deliberately, thoughtfully, and prayerfully. The phrase "*wiles of the devil*"

could also be translated schemes...and schemes are deceptive strategies. Paul

said in **2 Corinthians 2:11** "*For we are not to be ignorant of the devices of*

Satan." The fall of the human race hinged on two key points: deception and

disobedience. When spiritual warfare is occurring in our lives deception and

disobedience are at the forefront. One of the most frequently used statements

of Jesus was "*Be Not Deceived.*" And if we don't **stand** on the Word of God,

we give Satan permission to rule our thoughts and mind hence, affect our

actions.

Vs. 12 - Paul is saying “individual people” are not our real problem...we must be able to spiritually see beyond the person. Paul’s main idea here is much the same as in ***2 Corinthians 10:3-4***: “*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds.*” Satan certainly can and does use people to persecute us, lie on us, cheat us...Satan can use your supervisor to mistreat you...Satan certainly can tempt your child to yield to peer pressure...but we must understand the person is a conduit of Satan’s spiritual attacks but the fruit of the attack; the origin of the attack is something that evolves in the spirit realm. But as long as we see only human beings as our enemy and we wrestle with them (flesh and blood) in the natural, we will spend our strength in vain. Satan uses people but the person is not your main enemy; Satan and his demonic forces are. We need “supernatural power” to defeat Satan, and God has provided this by giving us His Holy Spirit within us and His armor surrounding us. Although we are assured of victory we must engage in the struggle until Christ returns for His church.

Vs. 13 - One of the most successful advertising campaign slogans is the one from American Express – *Don’t Leave Home Without It*...now as it relates to spiritual warfare, the six pieces of spiritual armor mentioned in verses 13-17, we too need to live out the American Express tag line – we need to never leave

home without it. God has provided the whole armor for us, and we dare not omit any part. Putting on the whole armor of God involves daily living in truth, righteousness, and faith; standing firm in our faith, ready to quench the enemy's fiery darts with God's shield; empowered by prayer...standing ready to tell others the good news about Jesus. To be equipped for spiritual warfare we have been given *specific* spiritual tools with which to fight. When Paul says "*that you may be able*" he is saying without the strength of God and the protection of spiritual armor, it is impossible to stand against the attacks of spiritual enemies. When Paul speaks of the "*evil day*" any great spiritual contest in a believer's life could be in view here.

Vs. 14 - the first spiritual garment we need to put on is the Belt of Truth; it holds the other parts of the armor together. A belt brings order to the rest of the wardrobe. In its most simple terms TRUTH is what the Bible says...and Biblical Truth does not change because society changes. The Bible is a never changing word in an ever-changing world. Now it's significant to note that Paul list "Truth" first which suggests successful spiritual warfare begins when the Christian is rooted and grounded in the promises of God. No other writings, revelations or prophecies are to be considered as an authoritative source of truth this is confirmed in both *2 Timothy 3:16-17* and *2 Peter 1:20-21*. Jesus is the Way – the Truth, and the Life – there is NO OTHER way to

heaven but through Jesus as confirmed by **John 14:6**. Are you rock solid in the truth about salvation? Do you know we are saved by grace through Faith and not of ourselves; it is the gift of God not or works least anyone should boast affirmed by ***Ephesians 2:8-9*** – Do you know once you are saved you can NEVER lose your gift of salvation as ***John 10:27-29*** affirms...Do you know it has been appointed to man to die once and after that comes the judgment – the TRUTH is everyone will hear Jesus say either well done my good and faithful servant and we be judged for our rewards and enter heaven or one will hear Jesus say depart from me you worker of iniquity I never knew you...and then be cast into the lake of fire eternally! This is affirmed in ***Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 7:23, Matthew 25:21, and 41***. The 2nd piece of spiritual equipment is the **Breastplate of Righteousness**. The Roman soldier's breastplate *protected his upper vital organs particularly the lungs and heart*. ***Proverbs 4:23*** urges us to protect our hearts: It says, “*Keep your heart with all diligence, for out of the heart flows the issues of life.*” Satan tries to corrupt the hearts of Believers so that they will display ugly vile passions instead of the love of Christ. *Righteousness* must be the guardian of the heart. The Epistles of Paul teach of two types of Righteousness – **Positional Righteousness** which is a righteousness based on being in a “Right Standing” with Jesus the Christ which happens the moment God opens our eyes to who Jesus is and we confess

sins/repent and then accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior...we are then Positionally Righteous...and then there is Practical Righteousness which is the application of God's Truth – it's living in accordance with the truths of the Word of God...our lifestyle will either fortify us against Satan's attacks or make it easier for Satan to defeat us...God does not ask us to imitate His Righteousness for no human being can do that. Instead, God gives us His righteous nature by means of Regeneration – being born again after we accept Jesus as Lord and Savior...God gives us the Holy Spirit to live inside us so IT will reproduce Christ's righteousness in us and through us. When Christians begin to behave like Jesus we will have a greater impact on our homes, community, and nation. When we engage in unrepentant sinful activity we invite demonic activity – Satan and his demons function in sin not righteousness.

Vs. 15 - The *preparation of the gospel* is represented as the protective shoes (or sandals) worn by Roman soldiers. The gospel provides the “footing” for everything we do. We must be prepared each day to share the Gospel to a unsaved world...the most victorious Christian is a witnessing Christian. Beautiful feet are not just those pedicured, but the feet that are wearing the shoes of the Gospel are the most beautiful as stated in *Isaiah 52:7 (Get a volunteer to read Isaiah 52:7 regarding the feet of the gospel)*. If Jesus

appeared to you during your next devotional time frame and ask you these 3 questions would your paper be blank? (1) Write down the names of the last 3 people who have witnessed to in the last 90 days; (2) What is the name of the last person you led to Christ? What are the names of least 3 people you are praying will come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior? Now I know you may not always know when your seed planting or watering yielded a soul; but if you do it often enough; God will bless you from time to time to audibly experience it with someone.

Vs. 16 - the shield the Roman soldier utilized was usually about four feet by two feet made of wood and covered with tough leather. As the soldier held it in place before him, it protected him from spears, arrows, and fiery darts...the edges of these shields were so constructed that an entire line of soldiers could interlock their shields and march into the enemy like a solid wall...Now this suggests that as Believers, we are not in the battle alone...and the faith that is mentioned in **vs. 16** is not saving faith...but rather *living faith* - a trust in the promises and the power of God. We need this *shield of faith* because in **vs. 16** it is also needed to “*quench the fiery darts of the wicked one*” Notice the text did not just say “dart” but **fiery dart(s)** (regular dart affects just one part of you; a *fiery dart* is designed to destroy you and those connected and/or around you). And notice its darts and not dart...Satan is

not a attack once and done enemy; he is relentless. Satan has a 3-point plan for all of humanity: kill, steal, and destroy (*John 10:10a*).

Vs. 17 - Roman soldiers wore helmets because a blow to the head could be fatal. What we think and know about Jesus is the most important thing in the world. Satan wants to attack the mind because if he can control your thought life he can control your actions...the helmet refers to the mind controlled by the Word of God...let me better illustrate this...In football the QB is the leader on the field and at every snap he has the football in his hand...and because of this, he is always under attack and needs a helmet to support his head...Now sitting on the sidelines or high above the football field where the battle takes place is the Offensive Coordinator...He is constantly looking down on the field – he sees what the defense is doing and because of modern technology he can speak to the QB through his helmet about what he should be doing in light of what’s coming at him. So the Offensive Coordinator speaks into the helmet of his man the QB to instruct him what play to call to advance the football in light of the forces against him...Well, Jesus is our Off. Coord. And He sees what’s going on because **He sits High but He looks Low**...He sees what’s happening on the battlefield and if we have on the Helmet of Salvation we’ll receive some instructions from Jesus of how He wants us to advance His Kingdom in light of the forces all around us. Paul

urges the Christian to be renewed in our minds (*Romans 12:1-2; Colossians 3:1-3*). And *1 Thessalonians 5:8* speaks of the helmet of salvation in connection to the hope of salvation. The helmet of salvation protects us against discouragement, against the desire to give up, giving us hope not only in knowing that we are saved, but that we will be saved. It is the assurance that God will triumph. Church, the more our minds are filled with the truth of God's Word, the less susceptible we are to Satan's schemes and temptations. And then *vs. 17* talks about the Sword of the Spirit (vs. 17b). Now the Sword of the Spirit is the Word of God. So far each spiritual garment has been for defense – but the Sword of the Spirit. Now there are two Greek words for Sword – one refers to a long sword that is used when you're fighting from a distance and the other Greek word which is the one used here is a word akin to our word for "Dagger." The short dagger was used for close, hand to hand combat...it's when the enemy is right in your face. Three times Satan tempted Jesus with the *lust of the flesh, lust of the eyes, and the pride of life* and each time Jesus defeated Satan when He said, "*It Is Written.*" It is the "Word" which enables us to attack the enemy...it has been said the best defense is an offense...Neither principalities, nor powers, nor the rulers of this world's darkness, nor wicked spirits in high places, nor Satan himself, can withstand the Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God. The powers on

earth and Hell have no defense against the Sword of the Spirit. But it's a shame we don't keep ourselves strapped with the Sword of the Spirit.

Hebrews 4:12 says, *“For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* It should be the desire of every Christian to have a closer Walk with the Lord and to have a closer walk with the Lord means we must read and study – memorize and meditate on the word of God. For 9 years we have had the *“book of the month club.”* Matter of fact, after we read this month's book of the month – Isaiah, represents the 2nd reading of the entire Bible for those who have been members of TMFBC since 2012. It is the word of God that transforms lives...compare the time you have spent in the Word of God last month verses the amount of TV you watched...time on social media or other books/magazines you've read...time you spent involved in your hobby...Nothing is needed more in the church than Expository, verse by verse Bible teaching and preaching and prayer (especially corporate prayer).

Vs. 18 – In this verse Paul is admonishing us to pray for kingdom advancement. When we seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness – everything else will be added (according to **Matthew 6:33**). God calls the church a “House of Prayer” but is it? Is prayer central for every ministry

initiative? Prayer is not twisting God's arm in an attempt to get God to do what we want...but Prayer is asking God to do what He has already promised in His Word to do...IF we are in fellowship with Him and we can ask Him to do it. As it relates to spiritual warfare when we pray, our prayers allow us to enter into the supernatural realm in order to utilize our armor. Paul is admonishing the Christian to pray without ceasing...live prayerfully daily. A Christian must pray always because we never know when a surprise attack from Satan will occur and we are to pray "in the Spirit" as **Romans 8:26-27** teaches us because only in the Spirit's power can we pray in the will of God. **Vs. 18** also says being watchful – Jesus used the phrase “watch and pray” often. When Nehemiah was repairing the walls of Jerusalem and the enemy was trying to stop the work, Nehemiah defeated the enemy by “watching and praying. **Nehemiah 4:9** says, “*Nevertheless we made our prayer unto our God, and set a watch.*” And finally, **vs. 18** says with *perseverance and supplication for all the saints.*” Perseverance in prayer means we are deeply concerned and burdened and cannot rest until we get God's answer. **Joel 2:17** says “*Let the priests, who minister to the Lord, weep between the porch and the altar; let them say Spare Your people O Lord, and do not give Your heritage to reproach.*” Where are those who truly believe we are living in the last days...if we do, then why is the church at large so relaxed in not being engaged in corporate

prayer. If we are carrying the Sword of the Spirit, we'd recognize the season we're living in and if we truly believe the Rapture could occur any day then why are we not earnestly and fervently praying for divine appointments and then praying for the lost to come to know Jesus. Revivals are on church calendars nationwide but there will be no revival until there are prayers of confession and repentance followed by a season of prayer asking God to send the spirit of Revival...we are to pray for all the saints...that is one of the reasons we have SHOP to pray for all the Saints...Christians are being persecuted worldwide and its coming to America...the evil in this world is not going away...Satan is attacking the divine institutions of family and marriage like never before and the church better become a House of Prayer wearing the Full Armor of God or its going to give in to the world and compromise God's Truth thus, becoming a center of false teaching.

Vs. 19-20 - After bringing up the idea that spiritual warfare can be waged on behalf of others, Paul asks his readers to pray for him. And notice in these verses Paul did not ask the Ephesians to pray that his chains be removed but that he would continue to speak boldly and fearlessly the Gospel in spite of his chains. As we pray for change to our circumstances; we should also pray for that God will accomplish His plan through us right where we are. And we do

this because we know God’s eternal purpose for us will help us through the difficult times.

Vs. 21-24 – In these verses Paul provides a final greeting to the Ephesians.

Because Tychicus was a servant of God, He is mentioned by name here; he is also mentioned in **Acts 20:4; Colossians 4:7; 2 Timothy 4:12; and Titus 3:12.**

Paul highlights in these verses it is good to show appreciation to others who serve with you in ministry; no one does it all by themselves. This letter was written to the church at Ephesus, but it was also meant for circulation among other churches. Finally, note the words Paul uses as he closes this letter: peace, love, faith, and grace. Paul was a prisoner of Rome, yet he was richer than the emperor. No matter what your circumstances may be, in Christ Jesus we are abundantly blessed with all spiritual blessings.