

THIS WEEK'S MESSAGE

NOVEMBER 19TH - 20TH, 2022 // BOOK OF EPHESIANS

SUBMISSION IN THE FAMILY (EPHESIANS 6:1-4) SUBMISSION WITHIN FAMILIES

We're called to submit in marriage (ch. 5), but also within families. First, children are to "obey [their] parents in the Lord because this is right."

- It "is right" because it is one of the 10 Commandments. Natural law, the OT, and NT all teach that we are to recognize parental authority over us until we become adults.

NOW, FOR THE "MUTUAL" PART

Yes, children are to obey their parents, but parents are called to be "in the Lord," leading in an ethical, legal, and moral manner.

- Parents are also not to "stir up anger" in their children (v4). This means **we as parents are to lead by example and maturity by taking the high road.**

WHAT IF OUR "AUTHORITY" IS CORRUPT?

If parents are abusive or negligent, the child is to obey the teachings of God above their parents. This is not breaking the fifth commandment.

- This applies to spouses, parents/children, and workers. **We ultimately follow the Word over all things while still showing respect and love to the best of our abilities.**

"THAT YOU MAY HAVE A LONG LIFE IN THE LAND"

The general "promise" that comes with following the fifth commandment is that we will have more fulfilling and often longer lives.

- **When children are properly raised to be obedient, they are less likely to become addicts, commit crimes, and live carelessly because they are disciplined people.**

SUBMISSION IN OUR WORK (EPHESIANS 6:5-9)

A FALSE NARRATIVE

The Bible in no way condones slavery but offers ethical practices for times and places where slavery existed. We can take these teachings into our workplace.

- **We are to "serve with a good attitude" as we are working for the Lord, knowing He will ultimately repay us.**

"MASTERS" ARE TO ACT THE SAME WAY

People who lead are to treat their subordinates with respect, good attitudes, and in non-threatening ways.

THERE IS ALSO BALANCE IN ALL OF THIS

There are times when people need to get ired or find another place to work, but **in this, we can still act Christ-like.**

THIS WOULD HAVE BEEN VERY CONTROVERSIAL!

The words of Paul that slaves and masters are equal in the eyes of God would have been very shocking to people in a time when a majority of the Empire was in a form of slavery.

- **Equality is a huge part of the gospel. All people have equal access and value when it comes to God.**

THE ARMOR (EPHESIANS 6:10-20)

PAUL'S FINAL INSTRUCTION

We are saved by grace through faith (chapters 1-3), we are to live a new life and imitate God (chapters 4-5), and in order to make it through this life and inherit eternity, we must put on the armor of God (chapter 6).

- **"Putting on the armor"** is a metaphor for **applying biblical principles** in our lives.

"STAND AGAINST THE SCHEMES OF THE DEVIL"

We need spiritual armor because our fight isn't against "flesh and blood, but against the rulers,...the authorities,...the cosmic powers of this darkness,...evil, **spiritual forces.**"

- **If we pray, trust God, and apply the teachings of the Word, we will "be able to resist" and "take [our] stand."**

WE DON'T TALK ABOUT THIS ENOUGH!

We've become a very spiritually numb society. In this, we limit ourselves to the material and ignore the fact that **there are real demonic forces at work in the world around us.**

- **We have to be discerning, wise, and believe in the power of the Holy Spirit as we pray with confidence often!**

THE BELT OF TRUTH

This is best understood as accepting the truth of the Bible and choosing to obey what it says.

THE BREASTPLATE OF RIGHTEOUSNESS

To put on the breastplate of righteousness is choosing to walk away from sin and repent when we fall to evil things.

FEET SANDALED WITH READINESS

This is believing and living in the promises of God through His Word. This gives us peace.

This also means we are **ready to act.**

THE SHIELD OF FAITH

This is rejecting doubt or the temptation to give up. It is also reaffirming our faith by trusting in the truth of God's Word.

THE HELMET OF SALVATION

This is putting our hope in our eternity while also living this life by Jesus' value system.

THE SWORD OF THE SPIRIT

This is us using the Word and its teachings as a weapon to fend off Satan's attacks and to fight evil.

"PRAY AT ALL TIMES AND STAY ALERT"

Before Paul asks for prayers for himself, he encourages the Ephesians to prepare for the battles of life by praying and remaining alert.

- Jesus wants to help us, but we often times run to other things. **We need to pray for wisdom, discernment, grace, and love as often as possible.**

HOPE (EPHESIANS 6:21-24)

PAUL SAYS GOODBYE

Paul closes this letter with a brief synopsis of his situation. He mentions that he intends for his messenger, Tychicus, to encourage the church.

- Paul is writing them from a Roman prison awaiting execution. This is important to know because we see him hold firm to the faith in terrible times.

WE NEED TO HEAR SUCCESS STORIES

It's an encouragement to the church and to us as individuals when we hear that others have suffered but have held firm to the faith.

- In the middle of our circumstances, it can be difficult to think clearly and make wise decisions; this is why **we not only need God but other believers in our life.**

PEACE, GRACE, AND LOVE

Letters in this time would typically end with a wish for good health and prosperity, but Paul is more concerned with the deeper state of their souls.

- Paul concludes with **divine grace and love** (a central theme) and that **true Christians will experience the love of God forever.**

SUBMISSION WITHIN THE FAMILY

- Children are to obey their parents until they leave the home, and parents are to model biblical love and raise their children to fear God. In this, people live better.
- One could argue this also works in the family of God. We're all to mutually submit and serve each other.

SUBMISSION IN THE WORKPLACE

- As Christians, we are to work hard with a good attitude because we know we ultimately represent Christ in our workplace, and He will reward us.
- We are also called to lead with discipline, grace, and a gentle Spirit. In this, we are submitting to the needs of those we lead.

PUTTING ON THE ARMOR

- **Belt of Truth:** Are we choosing to live by the principles and teachings of the Bible?
- **Breastplate of Righteousness:** Are we fully repentant of, and moving away from, sin?
- **Feet of Readiness:** Are we living in the promises of God? Are we ready to act or react at any time?
- **Shield of Faith:** Are we rejecting doubt and staying clear of temptations?
- **Salvation:** Are we living in obedience, grace, and security of God while looking forward to our eternal home?
- **The Sword of the Spirit:** Are we using the Bible as a weapon against evil?

AN INVENTORY

- Have we truly accepted God's free gift of salvation by grace through faith?
- **Are we walking in the "newness of life"?** Do we understand that we are called to a higher standard?
- **Are we fully submitted to God?** If we are, we will also submit in our relationships.
- Are we walking in the principles and teachings of God's Word?
- If we will **"put on the armor,"** which simply means reading the Bible and applying it to our lives, we will be able to not only fend off evil but overcome it through truth and love.