

I. REVIEW

- A. God is a God of order, and scripture teaches that God establishes order and authority in creation, the Church, family, marriage, workplace, and society, not to oppress, but to bring peace and reflect His character and accomplish His purposes..
- B. Man has authority over nature, husbands have authority over their wives, parents have authority over their children, governors have authority over those they govern, employers have authority over their employees, and spiritual leaders have authority over those they lead spiritually.
- C. God establishes authority according to His divine order, and with greater authority comes greater responsibility. Everyone in God's Kingdom is equal in value though not everyone carries the same role or authority.
- D. God's order in the church, marriage, family, and workplace can only function as He intended when it flows from the Spirit-filled life described in Ephesians 5:18.
- E. In today's passage, Paul continues explaining God's order by addressing the relationships between children and parents, and servants and masters.

II. CONTEXT OF OUR STUDY

- A. The context of our study today flows directly out of Ephesians 5:18: **"Be filled with the Spirit."** Spirit-filled Christianity isn't just manifested in worship or acts of service, but becomes visible through God's design and order in marriage, parenting, family relationships, work, and the way we treat people under our authority.
- B. This section is remarkable because it offers both a promise and a reward when obeyed and lived out.

III. EPHESIANS 6:1-9

- 1. ***Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²***
"Honor your father and mother," which is the first

commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.⁵ Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶ not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him

IV. VRS 1

1. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

- B. Paul now moves from the role of husbands and wives, to the role of children and fathers.
- C. The bible calls children a heritage, a reward, an arrow in the hand of a warrior, olive plants around a table, a crown to their grandparents, examples of humility, recipients of the Kingdom, and God's desire.

1. Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, The fruit of the womb is a reward.⁴ Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.⁵ Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. -Ps 127:3-5

2. But did He not make them one, Having a remnant of the Spirit? And why one? He desires godly offspring. -Malachi 2:15

- D. Children should obey their parents as long as they are still children living under their parents' authority. When a child becomes an adult

he or she no longer has to obey his or her parents, but should continue to honor them.

V. VRS 2-3

1. ***"Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise: ³ "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."***

- B. Even though as Christians we are no longer under the Mosaic Law Paul quoted the fifth commandment in Exodus 20 in order to stress the importance of children obeying their parents.
- C. There is an important distinction between obeying and honoring your parents. While children are under their parents' authority, honor is expressed through obedience. As they become adults, however, honor becomes a lifelong commitment expressed through respect, consideration, gratitude, and care, especially as their parents grow older.
- D. Paul attaches a promise to children for obeying their parents. The promise is in verse 3, a long blessed life
 1. Children who obey and heed the wisdom of their parents can avoid many harmful choices and destructive paths that could negatively affect, or even shorten their lives.

VI. VRS 4

1. ***"⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord"***

- B. This idea would have been revolutionary in its day; in the first-century Roman Empire, fathers could do pretty much what they liked in their families. They could even sentence family members to death. *But because of the gospel, Fathers can now be under the control and influence of the Holy Spirit, and use their authority to train and raise up godly children.*

- C. Once again, Paul emphasizes the weight of responsibility placed upon the man in the home, both as a husband and as a father. Because God has entrusted him with significant authority, he also bears a greater responsibility, not only in how he loves and leads his wife, but also in how he nurtures, disciplines, and raises his children in the Lord.

VII. THE POWER OF A FATHER AT HOME

- A. 70–85% of prisoners grew up without a father, and some claim 75% of drug addicts have had an absent father in their lives.
- B. This illustrates the importance of God's design for the family: when fathers faithfully embrace their God-given responsibility, their presence can provide stability, guidance, and protection, but when they don't it causes many destructive influences.
- C. To bring children up in the training and admonition of the Lord means to intentionally nurture, teach, discipline, correct, and model for them the ways of Christ so they can grow toward spiritual maturity.
 - 1. We can't do this by only saying it, but not living it before them.

VIII. THREE WAYS PARENTS CAN PROVOKE THEIR CHILDREN(HARM)

A. AN UNHEALTHY MARRIAGE

- 1. An unhealthy marriage can be especially damaging to Christian children because the home is often their first picture of what Christianity looks like in practice. They hear what their parents say about Christ, but they also watch how their parents treat one another.
- 2. It creates instability, fear, a distorted view of love, wrong understanding of who God is, undermines the parents faith, and can potentially make the children repeat in their marriages what they grew up seeing.

B. HYPOCRISY

1. Children may forget many things their parents taught them, but they rarely forget the Christianity they watched them live.

C. LEGALISM

1. I define it as “religious rules without relationship”. It is dangerous because it misrepresents God, and the gospel.
2. It cultivates pride, outward performance without inward transformation and creates a distorted view that God’s love must be earned.
 - a) ***but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. ⁴For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men’s shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers. -Mt 23:3-4***

IX. THE THREE WAYS TO RAISE UP ON FIRE CHILDREN

- A. One of the most impactful books I have read on parenting is *Raising Children to Be World Changers* by Joy Dawson. In it, she shares three simple but powerful keys for raising children who passionately love Jesus and continue walking with Him into adulthood..

1. PARENTS WHO ARE ON FIRE
2. PARENTS WHO STAY ON FIRE
3. PARENTS FRIENDS WHO ARE ON FIRE

X. VRS 5-8

1. ***⁵Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; ⁶not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to***

men, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.

- B. Paul now gives instructions of how a spirit filled life is expressed in the area of the marketplace in our day.
- C. The primary takeaway is our motives at work. The Spirit-filled believer doesn't work merely for a paycheck, promotion, recognition, or human approval; he works with excellence and integrity because he ultimately sees himself as serving Jesus Christ.

XI. VRS 9

1. ⁹ And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him

- B. Those with authority should use their authority as a person under authority.

XII. DISCIPLESHIP STARTS AT HOME NOT CHURCH

- A. The home should be the primary environment of spiritual formation. Deuteronomy 6:6–7 presents faith as something woven into everyday family life:

1. “You shall teach them diligently to your children... when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.”

- B. Biblical discipleship isn't supposed to happen only at church. The church reinforces what should be lived and taught in the home.

XIII. SATAN'S PRIMARY TARGET REMAINS THE SAME

- A. There is an important connection to recognize as Paul brings Ephesians to a close. His teaching on Spirit-filled relationships in Ephesians 5:18–6:9 flows directly into his teaching on spiritual warfare in Ephesians 6:10–20. This transition is not accidental but reflects a divine design and purpose.

- B. Paul understands that one of Satan's primary strategies is to attack God's order in the family—first seeking to divide the marriage and then bringing destruction into the lives of the children.
- C. We see this pattern emerging in Genesis 3–4. Satan first tempted Adam and Eve, bringing sin, blame, and brokenness into their relationship. In the next generation, that corruption manifested tragically when Cain murdered his brother Abel—the Bible's first recorded murder.