

Outline

Introduction and Announcements

- Recognition of graduates upcoming
- Baptism and Child Dedication scheduled for May 24th
- Fellowship dinner to follow

The Divided Life Problem

- Common temptation to separate life into "sacred" and "secular" categories
- Sacred: church, Bible study, prayer, missions
- Secular: daily routines, work, home life
- The dotted line believers unconsciously draw
- This division is unacceptable for true followers of Christ

Paul's Build-Up in Ephesians

- Written as single letter to be read in one sitting
- Progressive movement from heavenly to earthly application
- Chapter 1: Every spiritual blessing in Christ
- Chapter 2: Dead but made alive in Christ
- Chapter 2-3: Mystery of Jew and Gentile unity
- Chapter 3: Prayer to know Christ's love
- Chapter 4: Call to "walk worthy"
- Chapter 5: Spirit-filled living

Where Spirit-Filled Living Lands

- Not in sanctuary or Bible study alone

- In ordinary, everyday places of life
- Home, office, school, marketplace
- Proof of redemption shown in treatment of others
- Especially those with no power or benefit to offer

Ephesians 6:1-9 Reading

- Complete passage read

The Foundation: Ephesians 5:21

- "Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ"
- Hupotassō: voluntary arrangement under someone's order
- Military term meaning to place oneself under
- Not coercion but voluntary, Spirit-empowered posture
- Based on Christ's example in Philippians 2:6-7

Revolutionary Nature of Paul's Teaching

- Addresses lower-power position first
- Wives before husbands
- Children before fathers
- Servants before masters
- Contrast with Roman patria potestas
- Treats all as full moral agents before God

Children's Obedience (Verse 1)

- Tekna: relational term spanning age ranges
- Not just toddler behavior

- "Obey": to hear under, listen with submission
- Attentive, active obedience
- "In the Lord": motivating force and boundary
- Obey God when human authority conflicts
- Motivated by being in Christ
- Christ's example of joyful submission to Father

Honor Your Parents (Verses 2-3)

- Reference to Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16
- Kābēd: weight, glory, significance
- Action verb, not just feeling
- Speak, listen, treat with weight
- First commandment with promise
- Promise: well-being and long life
- Covenant community logic
- Societies honoring generational wisdom flourish
- Alternative: generational fragmentation
- Cultural consequences visible today

Command to Fathers (Verse 4)

- Direct address to pateres (fathers)
- Context: Roman paterfamilias had power of life and death
- Negative command: "Do not exasperate"
- Para + orgē: do not systematically stir up anger
- Present-tense imperative: stop ongoing pattern
- What provokes children:

- Harshness without tenderness
- Discipline without relationship
- Rules without grace
- Demanding what you haven't modeled
- Physical presence without heart presence
- Not permissiveness or lack of discipline
- Rule well with authority AND grace

Positive Command to Fathers

- "Bring them up in discipline and instruction of the Lord"
- Paideia: total formation, discipline, instruction, correction
- God's fatherly discipline (Hebrews 12:5-11)
- Formation as love, not punishment as vengeance
- Nouthesia: placing something in the mind
- Admonition, counsel, instruction shaping thought
- Goal: raising disciples, not just successful children
- Model Christlikeness

Life Change Challenge

- Speak weight into one household relationship
- Tell someone specifically what reflects Christ in them
- Give gift of being treated as weighty and significant

Closing Benediction

- Ephesians 3:20-21 paraphrase