

Ephesians Chapter 6 Week 1, Intro and v. 1

Before we begin chapter six of Ephesians - quick review of some truths we learned in Ephesians chapter five:

v. 1-2 gave us a challenge to pattern our behavior to reflect God since we are His children – specifically loving others sacrificially as Christ did.

v. 3-5 warned us to put off the characteristics that are not consistent with being a child of God but to put on the character of thankfulness.

v. 6-14 reminded us to be alert to deceitfulness and walk in the light as children of God rather than being controlled by sin as we once were

v. 15-17 challenged us to be wise, learning what God wants of us and using our time well

v. 18-20 describes what it means to be filled with the Spirit as we relate to one another and to the Lord, being thankful in all circumstances

v. 21-33 gives us a general command to put others before ourselves, then relates this command specifically to the marriage relationship using Christ's relationship with the church as our example

Chapter five ended with an overall summary of a husband's relationship towards his wife and the wife's relationship towards her husband.

Eph 5:33 Nevertheless let each individual among you also love his own wife even as himself; and [let] the wife [see to it] that she respect her husband.

Chapter 6 continues to apply the general command of submission within specific relationships, this time between children and parents.

Eph 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

Children – those who are young and under the care of their parents

When you think of the word obey what comes to mind? What does obedience look like?

Obedience: *the act or practice of following instructions, complying with rules or submitting to somebody's authority. Syn – compliance, agreement, submission, respect, duty, conformity*

Obey <hupakouo> to hear under (as a subordinate), i.e. to listen attentively; by implication, to heed or conform to a command or authority:--hearken, be obedient to, obey.

What is the difference between obeying out of fear and obeying out of love?

In the Lord – like saying 'because of your relationship with the Lord' – this is the motivation to obey, it pleases the Lord

The phrase *in the Lord* also gives boundaries – to obey unless asked to sin against the Lord. We are to obey those things that are of the Lord. God is the ultimate authority.

Right <dikaios> equitable (in character or act); by implication, innocent, holy (absolutely or relatively):--just, meet, right(-eous).

Children (those who are still under the care of their parents) are to listen and act according to the authority of their parents because God tells them to and it is right to obey God.

How can we, as parents, encourage our children to act in obedience?

With this in mind, what would be the most important thing to teach your children? Why?

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Application

Read Ephesians Chapter 6 then go back and re-read verses 1 and 2. Take the time this week to thoughtfully answer these questions. Keep in mind how God would have you personally apply His truths.

If you have children at home, what are they to do according to Eph 6:1?

Why are they to obey?

What does it mean to be obedient? (you might want to use a dictionary)

What is your responsibility in teaching your children to obey?

What is your motivation to teach them to obey?

If you no longer have children at home, how can you encourage the younger women in their responsibilities towards training their children?