

EPHESIANS 6a

Kids, Bosses & Spiritual Warfare

Chapter five ended with what I think is some of the most important principles in scripture... “Submit yourselves to one another as Christ submitted Himself to the Father and as the Holy Spirit submits Himself to the Son.”

We would say it like this, “**STAY... in your lane.**”

Husbands, just as Christ loved His church and sacrificed himself for her – Love your wives this way.” Submit yourself to her (In the fear or reverence of the Lord) as she submits herself to you! (In the fear or reverence of the Lord) **(5:21)**

Wives, just as Christ did, find your role in submitting to your husband **(5:22)** AND find ways to respect him **(5:33)**.

Side by side... Just as Lynette and I had to share a scuba diving tank once... become a team that is willing to take your role, flourish in your role, and celebrate each other's role... Without a hidden agenda – Learn and follow what the Bible has to say about YOUR part in this team sport called marriage.

Now... Continuing this theme of finding and accomplishing the biblical role in the family we come to the **Children**. The Apostle goes deep for this principle – deep into the Old Testament Law. **EXODUS 20:12**. The fifth commandment... Listen...

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents (**HOW?**) in the Lord, for this is right.

- BOOM! Cased closed... Shall we pray?
- Some teenager is going to say, “HOLD IT... My Parents are SO cray... I seriously think sometimes that I am smarter than them...”
- Well, interestingly... Jesus as a teenager found Himself in this very situation.
 - In Luke 2
 - Jesus was “Doing His Father’s business” in Jerusalem.
 - His parents abandoned Him in Jerusalem, so He started a Youth Group in the Temple.
 - He really DID know more than His Parents, BUT...
 - When they found Him, they scolded Him, and the Kid who had been schooling the Professors at the temple did what? – **Submitted** Himself to His parents... The result?

- **Luke 2:52** And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

THE PAYOFF

2 "HONOR YOUR FATHER AND MOTHER," which is the first (Only) commandment with promise: 3 "THAT IT MAY BE WELL WITH YOU AND YOU MAY LIVE LONG (*Happily*) ON THE EARTH." **AND THEN FOREVER!**

- Teens... LISTEN UP FOR A SECOND... The word Honor means for you to make a choice... NOT TO AGREE with everything your parents believe or require of you...
- BUT... To make a choice to **properly value** your parents in their role! Their role is to train you up in the Lord... The less you hassle them, criticize them and annoy them – the better your life is going to be.
 - FREE ADVICE – Learn **now** the art of diplomacy... Negotiation... Mediation... Tact...Discretion... Thoughtfulness... Politeness... AND YES... Submission. WHY LEARN THESE HORRIBLE THINGS?
 - So that your life will be MUCH more pleasant.

“Diplomacy is the art of the possible, the attainable, the next best.”

Otto Von Bismark, wise German Chancellor

- **BECOME A DIPLOMAT!** Annoying your parents may feel satisfying for a moment, but you will need them the most in your life for the next 10 years... Do your best to NOT make them look forward to your 18th birthday – When they can legally kick you out!

TRAINING WITHOUT EXASPERATING

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

- **Chuck Smith** – Dad's, don't tease or torment the kids. Communicate calmly and without being unreasonable. It is OUR responsibility to set the tone in the home.
 - Does this mean that our kids will always agree with us?
 - No, but... They learn more from watching us than from listening to us. So... Do not overdo the “Rules & Regulations.”

- **Dr. Dobson**, the Author of the Dare to Discipline books says that the biggest mistake parents make is using anger as a tool of discipline. It doesn't teach discipline to your kids... It teaches them to be angry when THEY want their way, just as you are when you want YOUR way.
- I heard Dr. Dobson say once that if you can raise a teenager who is still talking to you at 18 – You have done well! Be thankful!

SUPERIORS AND SUBORDINATES

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**;

- “As to Christ?” REALLY? MY BOSS is NOTHING like Christ... He is more like... Beelzebub!
- That might be true, but work for Him or her as to Christ... Or find another boss within your organization if possible. Listen...
- **Colossians 3:17** And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks through him to God the Father. **NLT**
 - It might behoove you to turn down a promotion or job in order to keep your testimony.
 - I have done this, and I have known others who have done this too. Pray... Listen... Make your career decisions as a team if you are married... AND be the best employee you can be and NOT...

6 **not with eyeservice**, (*IE, when being watched*) as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, **doing the will of God** from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, (*IE, without griping*) as to the Lord, and not to men,

- Remember how much God hated it when His people constantly complained?
- God will reward good attitudes. Listen...

THE REWARD...

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

MANAGEMENT TRAINING

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.

- Treat people fairly knowing that God will treat you like you treat others!
- When dealing with ANYBODY, ask yourself: WWJD?

SPIRITUAL WARFARE INTRODUCTION...

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord **and in the power of His might.**

- Chuck Smith divides Ephesians into 3 sections: The **wealth**, the **walk** and then the **warfare** of the believer.
- OR... Who we are in the Lord...
 - HOW we are to live in the Lord...
 - AND... How we are to war with the enemy in the Lord.
 - Do not go looking within yourself for the strength to battle the enemy. Jesus answered Paul's prayer for strength like this –
- **2 Corinthians 12:9** And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

SO... IN THE POWER OF THE LORD...

11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles (**trickery**) of the devil.

- Can you believe how many fake phone calls and fake emails we get EVERYDAY? Emails saying that your package is being held up... Phone

calls stating that you are in big trouble if you don't pay a bill immediately using some online form of payment.

- I got an email from a Pastor friend who was in South America on a mission's trip. He had lost his wallet and needed someone to wire him 1200 dollars right away to get home. I called his house in Simi... And he answered the phone.
- Beloved, just as these scammers are after us, Satan and his army of fallen angels are after us too.

12 For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual *hosts* of wickedness in the heavenly *places*.

- Can we stand against them? CAN WE? **YES!!!**

13 Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

NEXT WEEK – THE WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD!

Cs33