

“Walk In The Family / Work Relationships”
Ephesians 6:1-9
3/2/25
Message 10
Series: The Christian Walk

Introduction

- Title Of The Message: “Walk In The Family / Work Relationship”

- **This is the Purpose For Series – WALK WORTHY**

- **In Light Of What Jesus Did**

- DBR

- **The REALITY –**

- We CAN NEVER EARN our Salvation

- Salvation is a GIFT from God

- **HOWEVER –**

- Were to WALK WORTHY of it (Ephesians 4:1 / Philippians 1:27)

- This is what this series has been ALL ABOUT

- That we would Walk Worthy

- That we would GROW as His Disciples

- How WE LIVE this LIFE Matters

- **Review – So far**

- **1st – 2 Messages On - UNITY**

- **2nd – 2 Messages On - Our Walk In The Body**

- 3rd - Walk In The New Man / Woman
- 4th - Walk In Love
- 5th - Walking In The Light
- 6th - Walk In Wisdom
- 7th - Walk In The Marriage Relationship

• **Now This Morning - 4 Impactful Truths on Family / Work Relationships**

- Instructions For Children vv. 1-3
- Instructions For Parents v. 4
- Instructions For Employees vv. 5-8
- Instructions For Employers v. 9

Instructions For Children vv. 1-3

• **First: Recognize The Authority of Their Parents v. 1**

Ephesians 6:1 (NKJV)

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

- **1st Children OBEY Your Parents v. 1a**

Ephesians 6:1 (NKJV)

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

▪ **Children**

- **Meaning Children**

- Young Children

- **We never stop being their Children**

- BUT when we Grow Up this relationship does take on a different meaning

- So this is Children – In Culture Under the age of 18 – OBEY

- **Obey**

- Greek: Hupakouo –
- Means:
 - To listen, to harken to a command; to obey
 - Stand under or to Listen under
 - To listen with attentiveness and to respond positively to what is heard!!!
 - It means to be under another's authority

- **2nd IN the Lord v. 1b**

Ephesians 6:1 (NKJV)

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

- **A VERY Important Point**

- In the Lord
 - 1st Pleasing the Lord
 - To obey parents for the Lord's sake
 - The way you obey your parents is reflective of your obedience to the Lord.
 - To obey and honor Parents is to obey and honor the Lord
 - 2nd NO to Sin
 - In the Lord means you have to HONOR God first

Acts 5:29 (NKJV)

29 But Peter and the other apostles answered and said: “We ought to obey God rather than men.”

- **3rd For This is Right v. 1c**

Ephesians 6:1 (NKJV)

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

Colossians 3:20 (NKJV)

20 Children, obey your parents in all things, for this is well pleasing to the Lord.

- **1st It Is RIGHT**

- Refers to that which is
 - Correct – Just - Righteous
- For children to obey and honor their parents is “right”

- **2nd It PLEASES the Lord**

- Well pleasing to the Lord”
- The motive in obeying our parents should be love for Jesus

- **3rd Our Example – Jesus**

Luke 2:51–52 (NKJV)

51 Then He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and was subject to them, but His mother kept all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

- Catch that Jesus – Subjected himself to his parents

- **4th It made God’s top TEN list**

Exodus 20:12 (NKJV)

12 *"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you."*

○ **4th Application**

▪ **Maybe you think your parents are Unreasonable**

- First what does unreasonable mean?
 - If they ask you to climb Mt Everest, bare footed...
 - You may have a point!!!
- But MOST request from your parent are
 - Do your
 - Chores
 - Homework
 - Clean your room
 - Be good
 - Stop fighting with your siblings
 - etc...

▪ **PLEASE UNDERSTAND**

- Parents are motivated
 - To help you become a GOOD PERSON
- Parents have more Understanding with the world
 - Children only see the world from you age they are at
 - Illustration

- Children Understanding about their parents Grows
- 5 Phases:
 - 1st Young adolescent –
 - Parents can do nothing wrong
 - They know everything – smartest in the world
 - 2nd Puberty
 - Parents know a lot but not everything...
 - 3rd Teen Years –
 - Parents don't know anything...
 - 4th Early 20's
 - Parents know more than I thought...
 - 5th When They become a parent
 - My parents know everything again...
- **Sadly - Our Culture portrays obedience as mindless conformity**
 - This is clearly seen in so many of the T.V. Sitcoms
 - Where parents are portrayed as dimwits and fools
 - While the Kids are brainy and bright

- The kids are giving off all this wisdom – logic & good sense
- There is an agenda behind this –
 - More than create entertaining T.V.
 - Satan is undermine the Family
- A Tremendous Epidemic
 - Delinquency
 - Revolt
 - Rebellion
- Disobedient children is actually one of the sign that we are in the last days
 - (2 Timothy 3:1–4 / Romans 1:28–32)

• **Second: Respect the Position of Their Parents v. 2a**

Ephesians 6:2 (NKJV)

2 “Honor your father and mother,” *which is the first commandment with promise:*

- **1st Honor**
 - The Proper place of Each Parent
 - It means that you hold them in the highest possible respect.
 - WHY?!
 - **1st Important for a Healthy family**
 - Proper Order = Healthy Family

- **2nd Important for a Healthy Society**

- A person who grows up with respect for and obedience to their parents
- Will have the foundation for Respecting ALL Authority
- And the RIGHTS of Other people

- **3rd So Important to GOD**

- Respect for parents is of such importance to God
 - Moses commanded
 - “He who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death,”
 - “He who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death”
 - Rebellion is compared to the sin of witchcraft
- We need to honor and respect our parents
 - Shown the rest of their lives!!!!

- **Third: The Proper Response = Blessings v. 2b-3**

- **1st The Promise Behind This Command v. 3**

Ephesians 6:2–3 (NKJV)

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.”

- **3rd Important For Your OWN Health**

- This states a general principle that obedience fosters

- Self-discipline
- Which in turn brings stability and longevity in one's life.

Instructions For Parents v. 4

• **First: FATHERS - Parents / Especially Fathers v. 4a**

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)

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

- **1st FATHERS are the main ones**
 - But these principles apply to BOTH parents
 - Fathers:
 - Greek: Patēres
 - Means: Usually referred to male parents
 - BUT it was sometimes used of parents in general.
 - Now Fathers have a Huge Role!!!
 - Example: Jonathan Edwards
 - Was a Preacher – Wrote; “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God”
 - He was a Godly man
 - Jonathan Edwards insisted upon his children being raised in the Lord / Being at Church
 - Had 13 children

- Was known to have at least 927 descendants.
 - 430 were ministers
 - 314 were war veterans
 - 86 became university professors,
 - 13 became university presidents,
 - 75 wrote wholesome books,
 - 5 were elected to the US Congress and two to the Senate.
 - 3 Were Governors
 - 1 was vice president of the United States.

• **Second: Fathers do not provoke v. 4b**

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)

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

○ **1st Fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath**

- It says in Colossians 3:21

Colossians 3:21 (NKJV)

21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

▪ **What does it mean to Provoke... To anger?**

- *This suggests a repeated, ongoing pattern of treatment that gradually builds up a deep-seated anger and resentment that boils over in outward hostility, It may not be intended to provoke ... anger / but it does*

- **1st Overprotection / Helicopter Parents**

- Parents who smother their children, overly restrict every activity
 - Micromanage
- Never trust them to do things on their own
- Never increasing their ability to make their own decisions
- Continually question their judgment build a barrier between themselves and their children
- Children need careful guidance and restrictions
- But WE Can HURT them by not allowing them age-appropriate decisions
- Their wills need to be guided but they Can't be Controlled

- **2nd Allowing too much freedom**

- Allowing kids to do whatever they want
- Believe it or not kids want limits

- **3rd Favoritism**

- For parents to compare their children with each other, can be devastating to the child
 - They will tend to become discouraged, resentful, withdrawn, and bitter
- It is critical that we teach them that they are fearfully and wonderfully made by God with different talents

- This need to celebrated not shown favoritism

- **4th By pushing achievement beyond reasonable bounds / Unrealistic expectations**

- A child can be so pressured to achieve that he is virtually destroyed
- He quickly learns that nothing he does is sufficient to please his parents
- No sooner does he accomplish one goal than he is challenged to accomplish something better...

- **5th Failing to sacrifice for their children and making them feel unwanted**

- Don't have time for them!!!
- Children who are made to feel that they are an intrusion, that they are always in the way and interfere with the plans and happiness of the parents, cannot help becoming resentful
- To those children, the parents themselves will eventually become unwanted and an intrusion on the children's plans and happiness.

- **6th Failing to let children grow up at a normal pace**

- Again, they are kids... don't push them to act 30 when they are only 10

- **7th Using LOVE as a tool of reward or punishment—granting it when a child is good and withdrawing it when he is bad**

- We must love them unconditionally
- Those whom the Lord loves He disciplines” Heb 12:6

- But He never loves us less
- **8th Not admitting you're wrong and not asking for forgiveness**
 - It's important they see that we too need God's forgiveness that we too are sinners in need of a great Savior
- **9th Not teaching them the God's Word**
 - Train them up in the ways of God (Duet. 6:4-9)
 - You can teach the Word, but it better match your life...
- **10th Chastening in front of others**
 - Praise in public discipline in private

• **Third: Training & Admonition v. 4c**

Ephesians 6:4 (NKJV)

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

- **1st Training = Discipline**
 - The word in the Greek means - A systematic training of children
- **2nd Admonish them**
 - Strengthen build up instruct
 - To Encourage
 - To warn using the Word of God
- Application

▪ THE BIG QUESTION: Should we spank our Children?

- God says YES

Proverbs 13:24 (NKJV)

24 He who spares his rod hates his son, But he who loves him disciplines him promptly.

Proverbs 22:15 (NKJV)

15 Foolishness is bound up in the heart of a child; The rod of correction will drive it far from him.

Proverbs 22:13–14 (NKJV)

13 The lazy man says, “There is a lion outside! I shall be slain in the streets!”

14 The mouth of an immoral woman is a deep pit; He who is abhorred by the LORD will fall there.

- Discipline is a necessary part of Gods tools in training children!
- Hebrew 12:6 Whom the Lord loves He disciplines / God disciplines us
- When you do MAKE sure your not angry –
- Explain the reasons WHY
- BUT Of Course
 - There are a LOT of ways to Correct that don't involve Spanking

Instruction For Employees vv. 5-8

• **First: Context –**

- **1st Now before we go on, we must address the Big Elephant in the room SLAVERY**

- Abuses

- We are all familiar with the horrific abuses in this area
 - Mainly in our own nation but there have been abuses all through history
- Slavery was an accepted institution in the Roman world,
 - Where it has been estimated that there were some 60 million slaves in the Roman Empire,
 - That as many as one third of the populations of large cities such as Rome, Corinth, and Ephesus were slaves!!!
 - Under Roman law, according to Gaius (Gay-us), a slave was a thing to be owned and bought and sold and not a legal person.
 - Tragically many slaves had suffered terribly at the hands of their owners

- Better times

- NOW It has also been reported that there were times in history when things were better!!!
- When being a slave was more like having a job / like we see today
- In the Roman world, slaves were often wealthier and more educated than the free.
- Many people sold themselves into slavery.
- For many in the ancient world it was the better alternative to starving in poverty. The government did not provide welfare programs for the poor. Slavery provided a way for families to survive.

- Some even sold themselves into slavery as a means of obtaining Roman citizenship and gaining an entrance into society, a better position in life.
- Roman slavery in the first century was becoming more humane and civilized

○ **2nd Critics of the Bible / Christianity**

▪ **NOW critics of the Bible and Christianity**

- If Christianity is true, why does the Bible condone and even promote slavery?
- They attack Paul because he did not condemn slavery directly.
- They use this to not accept God's Word
- A good God would not do that. And on it goes..."

▪ **Understanding what the Bible teaches**

- It is important to discuss what the Bible says about slavery.
 - The Bible does not
 - Promote slavery!!!!
- Rather it provides limits on how it can be practiced.
 - There is a difference.

▪ **Here are a few those guidelines**

- 1st Against the kidnapping of anyone for the purpose of making him or her a slave (Exodus 21:16)

- 2nd Certain types of non-abusive and beneficial slavery were permitted, or even advocated, in the Old Testament.
 - For example, a thief who could not make restitution could be indentured until repayment was worked out
 - Israelites were allowed to buy slaves from the pagan nations around them (Lev. 25:44)
 - But fellow Israelites could not be bought or sold, although they could voluntarily indenture themselves until the year of jubilee (vv. 39-40).
 - During their time of service they were to be treated as hired workers, not as slaves (vs. 40-41, 46).
 - Even pagan slaves were not to be abused and were given their freedom if seriously injured by their master (Ex. 21:26-27).
 - A slave who fled from an oppressive master was to be given asylum and protection (Deut. 23:15-16).
 - A fellow Israelite could not be used as a slave for more than six years, at the end of which he was to be given a form of severance pay (Ex. 21:2; Deut. 15:13-14).
 - Every 50th year, the year of jubilee, all slaves were to be freed and returned to their families (Lev. 25:10).
 - A slave who loved his master and preferred to remain with him could voluntarily indenture himself for life by having his ear pierced by his master (Ex. 21:5-6). / Bondservant
 - The kind of slavery controlled by scriptural teaching was to be a blessing to both master and slave.

- **The Slave trade in Europe & in our own country that lasted past the middle of the 19 Century**

- Was a clear violation of Scripture, despite the rationalizations of many Christians who were involved in it.

- **The bottom line**

- When you understand what God has taught in the NT it will lead to the end of slavery!!!
- You can't read the NT and come away with the fact that slavery is okay!!!
- God DEALS with THE HUMAN HEART

- **3rd We will look at this text as if it was more related to Employer and Employees**

- God want us FAITHFUL if we are a Employer or an Employee

- **Second: Instructions For Employees vv. 5-8**

- **Let's look at 5 ways a Christian should respond to his employer:**

- **1st With Submission to Their Authority v. 5**

Ephesians 6:5 (NKJV)

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;

- **1st Be Obedient**

- Be obedient is in the present tense in the Greek, which means continual obedience.
- The Boss has rules – procedures

- We are to follow – Obey the work rules
- **2nd Reason WHY? Our Witness**
 - What is your job performance saying about you?!!!
- **3rd If we find ourselves in a horrible Job or Boss**
 - Do our best for Jesus
 - Keep our mouth shut
 - Leave if this is God's will
- **2nd With Separation Of Devotion v. 5b**

Ephesians 6:5 (NKJV)

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;

- **According to the flesh**
 - Obey unless they ask us to violate God's Word.
- **3rd With Sensitivity To Your Boss And Duties v. 5c**

Ephesians 6:5 (NKJV)

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;

- **With fear and trembling**
 - Honor and Respect
- **4th With Sincerity Of Heart v. 5 d**

Ephesians 6:5 (NKJV)

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;

- **Sincerity of heart**

- It has to be REAL!
- It is not hypocritical and superficial but genuine and sincere
- **5th With Service That Is Rooted In A Relationship With Christ vv. 6-7**

Ephesians 6:6–7 (NKJV)

*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,*

▪ **As To The Lord**

- All for glory of God, as to Christ
- So whatever your hands find to do – DO it for Jesus
- BE faithful right where you are!!!
- **6th With Satisfaction That The Lord Will Reward You v. 8**

Ephesians 6:8 (NKJV)

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

▪ **God knows and God rewards.**

- No good thing done in His name and for His glory will pass His notice or fail to receive His blessing.
- It's in HIS books!!!

Instructions For Employers v. 9

• **First: They Should Reflect The Same Godly Attitude & Actions v. 9**

- **1st You, Master Do the Same Things to Them v. 9a**

Ephesians 6:9 (NKJV)

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.

▪ **Same Attitude**

- They should have the same attitude as employees need to have towards the employer
- That heart is a desire to obey and please the Lord.
- An employer is to use his authority “as to the Lord”

▪ **What this looks like:**

- They make business decisions first of all on the basis of God’s standards
- Of righteousness, truth, and honesty

○ **2nd They Should Resists Using Wrong Motivation v. 9b**

Ephesians 6:9 (NKJV)

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.

▪ **Giving up threatening**

- The Spirit-filled employer is careful to NOT threaten
- A Christian employer is not to use fear to motivate

▪ **They Realizes that their own authority**

- Is though God

- **3rd They Should Remember That God Holds Him Accountable Also v. 9c**

Ephesians 6:9 (NKJV)

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.

- And there is no partiality with Him
 - They also know that before God they are no more important or worthy in himself than the least of his employees, because there is no partiality with Him

Closing

• We Come to the END of the Series – The Christian Walk

- May We Walk Worthy IN
 - UNITY
 - The Body
 - The New Man / Woman
 - Walk In Love
 - Walking In The Light
 - Walk In Wisdom
 - Walk In The Marriage Relationship
 - Walk In Family / Work Relationships

Communion

- First: Remember (Looking Back at what Jesus did)
- Second: Repent / Reflect (Looking Within) 1 Cor. 11:27-28

- Third: Rejoice (Looking Forward) 1 Cor. 11:26
- Fourth: Reconcile (Looking Around) 1 Cor. 11:29, 33-34

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 (NKJV)

23 *For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread;*

24 *and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, “Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”*

25 *In the same manner He also took the cup after supper, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”*

26 *For as often as you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death till He comes.*