

Truly Christian Relationships

Ephesians 6:1-9

Context

And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Eph 5:18-21 (ESV)

Children, Fathers

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honour your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1-4 (ESV)

Honouring Jesus Day to Day

- *submit to one another out of reverence for Christ*

Ephesians 5:21 (ESV)

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Eph 5:21 (ESV)

...to grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly, makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.... to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.


Eph 4:15-24 (ESV)

Message to Christians

*to the saints who are in Ephesus,
and are faithful in Christ Jesus...*

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**Incentive:
the love of
Christ Jesus**

**Response:
we love Him**

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Parents - to teach and to
train that child

Children – learning
obedience that they may
also learn the various
skills

Step of Obedience

- *obey your parents in the Lord*
 - *“Honour your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”*
- Outward action flows from an inward attitude
 - fuelled by a devotion to God in Christ Jesus
 - honour, that is, out of respect or reverence

Honour and Israel

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Honour brings well-being

Honour and Israel



Honour brings well-being

If the nation did not obey... God would punish them and remove them from the land.

The Promise

*“that it may go well with you
And that you may live long in the land.”*


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And that you may live long in the land.”

blessed are... 
your Father who sees in secret will reward you

The Promise

“that it may go well with you
And that you may live long in the land.”



blessed are...
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***We receive far more abundantly than
all that we ask or think (Eph 3:20)***

Instructions for Fathers

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:4 ESV)

Instructions for Fathers

The Negative

do not provoke your children to anger

- overprotection of your children
- favouritism between children
- excessive and unrealistic expectations
- continued discouragement, or
- neglect or outright physical or verbal abuse

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**There must always be
room for repentance
(for both parties)**

Instructions for Fathers

The Positive

bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

- present the Lord Jesus to our children in such a way that they will learn to love Him with their whole being
- point them beyond our parental authority to the authority of the God of the universe

Slaves and Masters

Slaves, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Eph 6:5-9 (ESV)

Slavery Condoned?

- a part of human existence all over the world
- OT Law addresses it and places limits
- Different from slavery in the American south

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 - “servant” “slave” “deacon”
- Situations
 - Captured in battle
 - Poverty, voluntary attachment
- issue is one of attitude

Employees

Obedience from the heart

- *...obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,*
- *not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,*
- *rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,*

Recognize and Remember

1. our *earthly masters* have no authority over our relationship to the living God
 - the Lord God has done everything we need for redemption (we owe Him our lives)
2. our role is more than that of an employee
 - ambassadors for the Kingdom of our Lord and Saviour
3. serving our Lord more than human management
 - for the Lord Jesus and not merely for the approval of the boss
 - desire the best for those over us

Recognize and Remember



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Employers

Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Employers (Masters)

- answerable to Jesus Christ for his actions
- act towards their slaves with the:
 - same regard for God's will,
 - same recognition of Christ's authority,
 - same sincerity and good will which had been enjoined on the slaves
- treat the slaves with concern for their well-being, as brothers and sisters in Christ and not as property

Employers - Remember

- the God of heaven is the slave's God also
- before God there is no slave or master
- all of us are sinners in need of God's redemption.
- God will judge each according to his works
 - not according to his status

Remember



**reward will be based on
what you have done in
this life in His Name**

Summary

- four examples of what it means to live as a Christian
- every situation to be addressed in the light of:
 - what God has already done for us
 - what He has promised us in Christ Jesus
- Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ
- exemplify and reflect the very nature of the Lord Jesus

Homework

**Our works, our attitude,
our behaviour ...
should reveal to the
watching world that the
Lord Jesus has sent us.**