

EPHESIANS

WHO I AM AND WHY IT MATTERS

Today's passage in Ephesians is unique because it speaks to so many different groups of people directly. It speaks to children, fathers, and mothers (in a sense). We will wrap up the study by asking a question that is often asked even today – does the Bible condone slavery? Ephesians 6 helps us answer that question.

Discussion Questions:

1. Looking back at your sermon notes, what encouraged or challenged you the most?

Read Ephesians 6:1-9

2. In Ephesians 6, Paul helps us take a closer look at how our rightness with Christ should be transforming our relationships with others. Why is it necessary to be Spirit-filled in order to live in right relationship with those around us (spouse, children, coworkers, etc.)?
3. What does it mean for parents to raise their children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord? What does it mean that obedience to our parents reflects obedience to God? How does this change as we leave our parents' care upon adulthood?
4. All godly parents desire to see their children grow up to be well-adjusted, mature, responsible, and happy adults who enjoy the favor of God in their lives. What connection exists between this kind of life and parents who responsibly teach their children to obey and honor their parents in the Lord?
5. While Paul mentions fathers specifically (Eph. 6:4, Col. 3:21), most commentators acknowledge that it is fair to see these instructions as being written to both parents. How might a parent provoke their child to anger? What challenges do parents face in teaching their children obedience while nurturing their children's hearts?
6. Paul's admonition regarding slaves and masters isn't a commendation of such a system. Slavery is a deep stain on the history of the United States and was certainly ungodly and evil. The practices of slavery and human trafficking are still prevalent in modern America, with estimated 17,500 foreign nationals and 400,000 Americans being trafficked into and within the United States every year, with 80% of those being women and children. What stood out to you the most from the sermon regarding slavery?
7. If we view these verses beyond their immediate context (slavery) and apply them to the employee-employer relationship, what is Paul advising Christian employees to do? Christian employers? What

connection exists between your attitude and ethics at work and your commitment to God? How can 1 Corinthians 10:31 guide us? When do you struggle the most to view your work in this way?

8. What's one personal takeaway from today's study you can focus on applying in your life this week?