

Study Notes For Ephesians

(Chapter Six)

Ephesians 6:1 –

- Children ought to obey their parents (**Proverbs 1:20-21, Proverbs 6:20, Proverbs 23:22, Proverbs 30:17, Luke 2:42-52, and Colossians 3:20**).
- God's view on this matter is made clear by the punishment He issued under the Old Law, which is done away (**Romans 7:1-6 and Hebrews 9:15-17**), but reveals His mind on this (**Deuteronomy 21:18-21**).
- "In the Lord" means according to the Lord (**Romans 16:1-2, Ephesians 4:17, and Colossians 3:18**).
- It is right because it is according to the Lord's will (**Psalms 19:8 and Psalms 119:75**).
- Disobedience to correct parenting is an indicator of other problems (**Romans 1:28-32 and II Timothy 3:1-5**).

Ephesians 6:2 –

- Honor your mother and father (**Matthew 15:1-6 and Matthew 19:16-19**).
- The first commandment that had a promise attached to it (**Exodus 20:12 and Deuteronomy 5:16**).
- There is a point to be made here concerning our older brothers and sisters in Christ too (**I Timothy 5:1-2**).
- Just as verse 1 had a qualifier, we must remind ourselves that this command does too (**Matthew 10:34-37 and Matthew 12:46-50**).

Ephesians 6:3 –

- Paul is referring to an Old Testament commandment with promise (**Exodus 20:12**).
- A better life through obedience to God's desire (**Deuteronomy 12:28; cf. John 15:10**).
- Consider how a disobedient child affects society (**Proverbs 19:26, Proverbs 28:7, Proverbs 29:3, Proverbs 30:11-12, and Luke 15:11-16**) and even the church (**I Timothy 3:4-5**).

Ephesians 6:4 –

- Fathers should not provoke their children to be wrathful (**Colossians 3:21**).
- Think of Saul and how he treated Jonathan in provoking him to anger (**I Samuel 20:1-42**).
- Fathers need to raise their children in the nurture [disciplinary correction] (**Hebrews 12:5-11**); instruction (**II Timothy 3:15-17**) of the Lord.
 - Disciplinary measures God desires (**Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 3:12, Proverbs 13:24, Proverbs 19:18, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 22:15, Proverbs 23:13-14, Proverbs 29:15, and Proverbs 29:17**).

- Instruction (**Deuteronomy 4:9, Deuteronomy 11:18-19, and Proverbs 4:1-5**).
- Fathers need to raise their children in the admonition [rebuke/warning] of the Lord so that they will be faithful to God (**Titus 1:5-6**).

Ephesians 6:5 –

- * *When many people look at these verses they relate them to U.S. history and racism. That is not this context nor the direct application under consideration. Slavery has existed for many reasons other than what has occurred in U.S. history (i.e. **Genesis 24:2, Genesis 37:28, Exodus 1:8-14, Exodus 21:1-11, Exodus 21:20-21, Leviticus 25:39-46, Joel 3:1-8, Matthew 18:25, etc.**).*
 - Slavery in the sense of stealing a person and selling them is not what we are going to discuss either (**Exodus 21:16 and Deuteronomy 24:7**).
 - Racism, which is sinful (**James 2:8-9; cf. Acts 17:24-30**), is not our discussion in this context.
- The command of the Lord is for slaves to obey their masters (**Colossians 3:22-25, I Timothy 6:1-5, Titus 2:9-10, and I Peter 2:17-20**).
- With fear, trembling, and singleness of heart as unto Christ (**I Corinthians 7:20-24**).

Ephesians 6:6 –

- Eye service: Not only when the master is looking (**Colossians 3:22; cf. Matthew 24:45-51 and Philippians 2:12**).
- Not as men pleasers (**Galatians 1:10 and I Thessalonians 2:4**).
- Rather, just as you would God. By continuation of thought, we know God is always watching (**II Chronicles 16:9, Proverbs 5:21, Proverbs 15:3, Jeremiah 16:17, and Hebrews 4:13**).

Ephesians 6:7 –

- With good will as unto the Lord (**Colossians 3:23-25**).
- When God tells us to obey someone He means such as if we were obeying Him in the act (**I Peter 2:13-16**).

Ephesians 6:8 –

- The reward will come from the Lord for faithfully following His instructions (**Matthew 16:27, John 5:28-29, and II Corinthians 5:10**).
- This applies to all men regardless of their status in the flesh (**Romans 2:6-11**).

Ephesians 6:9 –

- Christian masters [Lords] were [are] expected to treat their slaves properly (**Colossians 4:1, Philemon 1:1-25, and James 5:1-5**).
- Any faithful Christian would not have had a problem treating their servants well (**Psalms 112:5, Proverbs 14:21, Matthew 5:7, Romans 13:8-10, Galatians 6:10, Ephesians 4:32, and I Peter 3:8-12**).
- The Judgment of God will not respect the master over the slave (**Acts 10:34 and I Peter 1:17**).

Ephesians 6:10 –

- When Paul writes “finally”, that does not always mean a few last words are coming (this epistle is not ending in a few words). He said that in **II Corinthians 13:11** wherein only a few words after that were said (chapter ends at **II Corinthians 13:14**). To the church in Philippi he said such in **Philippians 3:1** [and again in **Philippians 4:8**] and that epistle goes on into another chapter and ends at **Philippians 4:22**. Similar in **II Thessalonians 3:1** then he writes through **II Thessalonians 3:18**.
- Certainly, there would be spiritual gifts and such that would make certain direct applications irrelevant here. These individuals (**Ephesians 1:13**) had received the Holy Spirit whom was working through them (**Acts 19:1-7**).
- Having said that, even without supernatural strength from God, our Lord expects His people to be strong (**Joshua 1:6-9**, **Proverbs 24:10**, **I Corinthians 16:13**, **II Corinthians 12:6-10**, **Philippians 4:13**, **II Timothy 2:1-4**, and **Hebrews 12:1-3**).

Ephesians 6:11 –

- Put on the whole armor of God (**Romans 13:12** and **I Thessalonians 5:1-9**).
- Emphasis [the whole armor] on not just being partially prepared for spiritual battle (**I Timothy 5:21**).
- Stand against the wiles [trickery; cf. **II Corinthians 2:11** and **II Corinthians 11:3**] of the devil (**Luke 22:31-33** and **I Peter 5:8-9**).
- Remember, though Satan and his angels are bound (**II Peter 2:4** and **Jude 1:6**), his children (**Matthew 13:24-30**, **Matthew 13:36-43**, **John 8:44**, and **I John 3:8-10**) are not (**Acts 13:6-12**).

Ephesians 6:12 –

- The battle is not carnal (**II Corinthians 10:1-5**, **I Corinthians 9:24-27**, **I Timothy 6:12**, **II Timothy 4:6-8**, and **I Peter 2:11**).
- In fact, the battle is often internal against our own carnal thoughts (**Matthew 16:21-23**, **Matthew 26:41**, **Romans 7:18-25**, **Galatians 5:17**, and **James 1:13-16**).
- The external focus is against principalities [i.e. magistrates; **Luke 12:11**], against powers [authority that we must also learn to balance obedience with; **Romans 13:1-7**], against the rulers of the darkness of this world [**Acts 26:18**], against spiritual wickedness in high places [heavenly places; celestial bodies; cf. **I Corinthians 15:40**] (i.e. **II Peter 2:4**). *Since the miraculous age is over (**I Corinthians 13:8-13**), there is clearly a difference now than then (i.e. we are not doing this – **Matthew 10:8** and **Acts 19:11-20**)!
 - We have to balance things like obeying these worldly powers (**Titus 3:1**) with not obeying them when such would bring about disobedience to God (**Acts 5:17-29**). Remember, persecution has, does, will come from civil governments (**Matthew 10:16-18**, **Matthew 26:59**, **Acts 12:1-4**, etc.). Consider the application to the situation in Ephesus regarding “great goddess Diana” (**Acts 19:21-41**)

- This balance has us honoring these leaders (**I Peter 2:13-17**) without falling prey to their ways (**Colossians 2:18-23**).
- We'd do well to remember that Christ has the ultimate authority over all of these authorities (**Colossians 1:12-18**, **Colossians 2:10**, and **I Peter 3:20-22**).
- We'd also do well to remember that the world we live in walks according to a power we reject (**Ephesians 2:1-3**).
- Therefore, with an understanding that the world is wicked (**I John 5:19**); we do not want to be part of that (**John 17:14**, **Romans 12:1-3**, and **James 4:4**).
- Our battles will occur because people of the world will not subject themselves to the authority of Christ, which we hold most dear (**John 15:18-20**; cf. **I John 4:1-6**).

Ephesians 6:13 –

- Take the whole (**I Timothy 5:21**) armor of God (**Romans 13:12**, **II Corinthians 6:1-7**, and **I Thessalonians 5:5-9**).
- The evil day could refer to a day (i.e. **Matthew 24:1-34**, **Romans 13:12**, **Hebrews 10:25**, and **I Peter 4:7**), wherein the need to stand would be desperate (i.e. **Ecclesiastes 12:1-8**).
 - This is NOT talking about the Judgment Day, for it is not an “evil day” (**Titus 2:13**, **Hebrews 9:28**, **I Peter 1:7**, **II Peter 3:12-14**, and **I John 3:1-3**).
 - Consider the impact, IF this applies to the destruction of Jerusalem, that would have on other congregations (i.e. **Acts 15:1-35**).
- To take a stand against evil (**I Corinthians 15:58**, **I Corinthians 16:13**, **Philippians 4:1**, **II Thessalonians 2:15**, and **Jude 1:3**) rather than giving into evil (**Mark 14:38**, **Galatians 5:24**, **Ephesians 4:27**, and **I Thessalonians 5:22**).
- Those who stand firm, in a lasting manner, are rare (**Luke 8:11-15** and **II Peter 2:1-3**).

Ephesians 6:14 –

- To stand, have truth around your waist (**Psalms 15:1-2**, **Proverbs 23:23**, **John 8:31-32**, **II Corinthians 4:1-2**, **II Corinthians 11:10**, **II Corinthians 13:8**, and **Ephesians 4:14-15**; cf. **Psalms 119:142**, **John 17:17**, and **Colossians 1:5**).
- When truth is not prevalent men are lost (**Jeremiah 9:1-8**).
- The Scriptures also speak of the “loins of your mind” being girded [fastened] properly (**I Peter 1:13-16**).
- Wearing righteousness as a breastplate (**Matthew 5:6**, **Acts 10:35**, **Philippians 1:11**, **Philippians 3:9**, **I Corinthians 15:34**, **I Timothy 6:11**, **II Timothy 2:22**, and **I John 3:10**).

Ephesians 6:15 –

- Feet bound with the Gospel (**Isaiah 52:7** and **Romans 10:14-17**).

- Teaching the truth is the ultimate tool against evil because it can convert the enemy to Christ (**Psalms 19:7, Acts 9:1-20, Acts 26:18-20, and Colossians 1:21-23**).
- Preparation (**Colossians 4:6** and **I Peter 3:15**), qualified (**Matthew 7:6** and **II Timothy 2:23**).
- The Gospel of peace (**Acts 10:36**) because the goal is not to destroy the enemy (**Luke 9:51-56**), but to reconcile them to God (**Ephesians 2:15-22**).
- The peace coming from the Gospel WILL NOT be carnal (**Matthew 10:34-39, Acts 17:1-11, and Acts 19:21-41**).

Ephesians 6:16 –

- Don't get lost in the phrase "above all". Such is stated elsewhere, in different contexts about different matters, stating other things (**Colossians 3:14, James 5:12, I Peter 4:8, and III John 1:2**).
- Faith is a powerful tool in our arsenal (**John 6:60-69, Romans 5:1-4, II Timothy 1:8-12, Hebrews 10:38-11:40, and I John 5:4**).
- Like a shield, if faith is not put into action it is useless (**James 2:14-26**).
- Thus, knowing your level of faith allows you to know how much you can withstand (**I Thessalonians 3:5**).
- The wicked is not just descriptive of Satan (**Galatians 1:3-4 and I John 5:19**).
- The fiery darts (**Psalms 64:2-6, Psalms 119:110, and Proverbs 1:8-19**).

Ephesians 6:17 –

- Protect your head (**Romans 12:1-3, II Corinthians 10:5, and Colossians 3:10**).
- Salvation, or the hope of (**I Thessalonians 5:8; cf. Lamentations 3:26 and I Peter 1:9**), is our headgear (**Isaiah 26:3 and Colossians 3:1-4**).
- The powerful word of God (**John 6:63, Romans 1:16, and Hebrews 4:12**) as your sword (**Psalms 119:11, Psalms 119:89-105, Matthew 4:1-11, Acts 6:7-7:60, Acts 17:16-30, Acts 19:7-10, II Timothy 3:15-17, and I Peter 4:11**).

Ephesians 6:18 –

- Praying always (**Luke 18:1, Acts 6:4, Acts 10:1-2, Romans 12:12, Philippians 4:6-8, and I Thessalonians 5:17**).
- Prayer and supplication "in the Spirit" refers to the Holy Spirit's direction during the miraculous age (**John 16:13, Romans 8:26-27, and I Corinthians 14:14-15**) that has passed (**I Corinthians 12:31-13:13**).
- Watching in connection to being prayerful (**Mark 13:33, Mark 14:38, Luke 21:36, Colossians 4:2, and I Peter 4:7**).
- Praying for all saints (**Romans 1:9, Ephesians 1:15-16, Philippians 1:3-4, I Thessalonians 5:25, and II Thessalonians 3:1**), but not only saints (**I Timothy 2:1-6**).
 - With this, we must be cautious. Remembering that God directly answered these types of prayers during the miraculous age (i.e. **Acts 16:1-10**).
 - Now, as with all prayers, we must realize that what we pray for has to include an understanding of how God will answer those prayers (**I John 5:14-15**).

- Consider one context of the Scriptures for an example. In **James 5:14-16** we see prayer for the physical and spiritually ill. Now, God still forgives sins (**I John 1:9**). However, the purpose of healing has come to pass (**Mark 16:15-20**) and His grace is sufficient for us (cf. **II Corinthians 12:1-10**). Thus, rightly dividing the word of truth (**II Timothy 2:14-18**) shows us what we can and must not pray for.

Ephesians 6:19 –

- Paul wanted them to pray for him (**Romans 15:30-32**) in asking God to help him speak as he ought to speak (**Colossians 4:3**).
 - Again, this involved the direct working of the Holy Spirit (**Matthew 10:16-20** and **Acts 4:29-31**).
 - We know Paul did speak inspired words (**Galatians 1:10-12**) through the direction of the Holy Spirit (**I Corinthians 2:9-13**).
- The word of God is supposed to be taught with boldness (**Proverbs 28:1**, **Acts 19:8**, **II Corinthians 3:12**, and **I Thessalonians 2:2-4**).
- We must be cautious with boldness. Being bold doesn't always mean you're right (**Acts 18:24-28**).
- Making known the mystery, as we discussed already in this epistle (**Ephesians 3:1-11**).
- Paul faced plenty in the flesh. At this point, we can see why he needed God's help in continuing to speak as he ought to. Try to imagine where Paul is mentally with all he is facing (**Acts 20:20-24** [cf. **Ephesians 3:1**, **Ephesians 4:1**, and **Ephesians 6:20**], **Romans 9:1-3**, **II Corinthians 4:8-5:1**, **II Corinthians 7:5**, **II Corinthians 12:11-21**, **Philippians 2:19-24**, etc.).

Ephesians 6:20 –

- Paul, as an Apostle, served as an ambassador [representative with authority to speak for a person] for Christ (**II Corinthians 5:20**; cf. **John 20:19-23**, **Acts 2:42**, and **II Peter 3:1-2**).
- He was in bonds [chains; **II Timothy 1:16**] at the time he wrote this epistle. Sadly, the faithful were imprisoned for teaching the truth (**Matthew 14:1-10**, **Acts 5:14-18**, **Acts 28:20**, and **Revelation 2:10**).
- Though the faithful were cast into prisons that never stopped the Gospel (**Acts 8:1-4**, **Philippians 1:12-14**, and **II Timothy 2:9**).

Ephesians 6:21 –

- Paul did not hide his whereabouts or actions from the brethren (**Acts 26:4**, **Acts 26:26**, **I Thessalonians 1:5**, **I Thessalonians 2:10**, **II Thessalonians 3:7**, and **II Timothy 3:10**).
- How could Paul, or anyone, be an example of faithfulness if he [or anyone] hides their deeds (**Isaiah 48:16** and **John 18:20**)?
- Aren't we supposed to be examples for people to see (**Matthew 5:14-16**, **Philippians 2:14-16**, **I Timothy 4:12**, and **Titus 2:7-8**)?
- Paul was/is a willing example for others (**I Corinthians 4:16** and **I Corinthians 11:1**).

- He allowed a report to be given by a faithful brother (**Proverbs 13:17** and **Proverbs 25:13**; cf. **I Corinthians 4:17** and **I Peter 5:12**) named Tychicus (**Acts 20:4**, **Colossians 4:7-9**, **II Timothy 4:12**, and **Titus 3:12**).

Ephesians 6:22 –

- In addition to the notes on verse 21, we should take note of how Paul took measures to make known what he was doing. Knowing how brethren are doing, even through a messenger, can be comforting (**Philippians 2:19**).
- He also wanted them to be comforted through the sending of a faithful messenger (**I Corinthians 16:17-18**, **II Corinthians 7:6-7**, and **I Thessalonians 3:1-8**).

Ephesians 6:23 –

- Peace to the brethren (**Romans 1:7**, **II Corinthians 13:11**, and **Galatians 6:16**; cf. **Colossians 3:15**).
- The tie between love and faith in/through God (**Galatians 5:6**, **Ephesians 3:17**, **II Timothy 1:13**, and **James 2:5**).

Ephesians 6:24 –

- Grace to those who sincerely (**I Peter 1:22**) love Jesus (**I Corinthians 16:22**).
- The kind of love that permeates your entire being (**Matthew 22:37**) and is shown through absolute obedience (**John 14:15**, **John 14:23-24**, **II Corinthians 5:14-15**, **I John 2:3-6**, and **I John 5:2-3**).
- The sincerity of love can be proven (**II Corinthians 8:8-9:13**).
- Some are not sincere (**Psalms 5:8-9** and **Titus 1:16**).
- For the insincere, deception is a matter of the heart (**Mark 7:21-23**).
- Be sincere (**II Corinthians 1:12** and **Titus 2:7-8**).