



**Being Men of God in a Dark World**  
High Meadow Ranch Men's Bible Study | Ephesians 6: Part 1 – Tuesday, May 7, 2024

Most of us would have to admit we're living in dark times. What used to be right is often considered wrong, and standing for the right things can often result in criticism and even public backlash. Paul's letter to the Ephesians is a book for a "time such as this." The early church in the ancient city of Ephesus faced similar challenges as we do today in being disciples of Jesus. The pagan culture did not recognize God and certainly did not see Jesus as God's Son. In his letter, Paul addresses some of the most important Christian concepts contained in the Bible including the Holy Spirit, salvation, spiritual warfare, marriage, and even parenting. May the Lord use this book of the Bible to impact us all to be more like Jesus!

Overview of Chapter 6a

Verses 1 – 4     Instructions for children and parents

Verses 5 - 9     Instructions for employees and employers (slaves and masters)

**Verses 1 through 4**

1. Consider the question presented at the end of last week's lesson. What is your greatest desire for your children and grandchildren as they grow older?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
2. Verse 1 commands that we obey our parents *in the Lord*. We are also told to honor our parents in verse 2.
  - a. What does it mean to obey parents and what does it look like?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. How are honoring and obeying different and how are they similar?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
3. If you go back to Exodus 20 and the Ten Commandments, the first four commandments are *God to Man* and the last six are *Man to Man*. Why do you think honoring parents is listed first among the latter group? Also, why did God ascribe a promise along with this command?



4. As we did last week, we see the important role that men play in the leadership of the family. Consider the concepts presented in verse 4 and answer the following questions.
- a. What does it mean to *exasperate* your children and what does it look like?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Fathers are called to bring children up in the training and instruction of the Lord. What is required for this to happen and in an ideal what does it look like?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - c. Why is a similar instruction not given to mothers?

#### **Verses 5 through 9**

5. The best application for verses 5 through 9 in today's time is for *employees and employers*. In these verses there are several great instructions for both. Consider the following questions as you address the roles of employees and employers.
- a. Verses 5 through 8 discuss Christ-like behavior for slaves. What can be gleaned from these verses in terms of how a Christian **employee** should act toward their employer and boss?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  - b. Verse 9 discusses Christ-like behavior for masters. What can be gleaned from these verses in terms of how a Christian **employer** (or boss) should act toward their employer and boss?

Our next "and last" study of this series (Tuesday, May 21)

Read Ephesians 6:10-24. Read about the Armor of God and by prepared to discuss in two weeks.