

## CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS

### Session 8 - The Believers Relationship

#### Scripture Reading: Eph. 6:1-9

**Eph. 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

**Eph. 6:2** "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with a promise,

**Eph. 6:3** "That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth."

**Eph. 6:4** And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

**Eph. 6:5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ;

**Eph. 6:6** Not with eye-service as men-pleasers but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the soul;

**Eph. 6:7** With good will serving as slaves, as [serving] the Lord and not men;

**Eph. 6:8** Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether [he is] a slave or a free man.

**Eph. 6:9** And masters, do the same things toward them, giving up your threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in the heavens, and there is no respect of persons with Him.

#### Today's Reading

Through the sanctifying, cleansing, nourishing, and cherishing Christ will gain a glorious church as His Bride. Just as Eve came out of Adam and went back to Adam to be one flesh with him, so the church comes out of Christ and will go back to Christ to be one spirit with Him. God's desire is that the church which comes out of Christ and returns to Christ will be a glorious church, a church that expresses God and manifests Him. By the sanctifying, cleansing, nourishing, and cherishing the church is being saturated with the essence of God. In this way the church is becoming the Bride to express Christ. Every local church today must be such an expression of God.

The first four chapters of Ephesians cover the fulfillment of God's eternal purpose. For the fulfillment of His purpose, God needs the universal new man, the church as the full-grown man in chapter four. In this respect, the new man is the highest aspect of the church. From the church as the assembly we proceed to the church as the household of God, then to the church as the Body, and finally to the church as the full-grown man.

Along with the need for God's purpose to be fulfilled, there is also the need for Christ to be satisfied. Within Christ there is the longing, the deep desire, for satisfaction. Only the church as the Bride can satisfy the longing in Christ's heart... The church, who is the new man for the fulfillment of God's purpose and the Bride for the satisfaction of the longing in Christ's heart, is also the warrior for the defeat of God's enemy...

Between the section on the church as the Bride (5:22-33) and the church as the warrior (6:10-20), we have 6:1-9, which deals with the relationship between children and fathers [519] and between

slaves and masters. If we neglect this portion of the Word, we cannot be a proper Bride or a proper warrior.

Verse 1 says, “The children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” In exhorting the children and the parents, the apostle deals with the children first, since trouble comes mostly from them.

In this verse Paul does not simply speak of children, but of *the* children. By using the definite article before children Paul indicates that the children of believers are not common. They are different from the children of people in the world. Therefore, the particular children, those in the families of believers, are exhorted to obey their parents in the Lord.

The phrase “in the Lord” indicates obedience to the parents by being one with the Lord. It also indicates that this should be done not by self-effort, but by the Lord, and not according to the natural concept, but according to the Lord’s word. The children of believers should realize that they are to obey their parents by being one with the Lord. Moreover, they are to obey their parents not by their own strength, but by the Lord Himself. Their obedience is to be according to the Lord’s word, according to the Scriptures.

Honoring is different from obeying. Obedience refers to an action, whereas honor denotes an attitude....

If we would live long on the earth, we need to honor our parents. Those who fail to honor their parents commit suicide in a gradual way. They actually shorten their life on earth. If you wish to prolong your days, learn to obey your parents with honor. In the Bible this is the unique condition for having a long life. Anyone who desires a long life needs to fulfill this condition.

The slaves are to be in obedience to their masters as to Christ. This means that the slaves are to regard their masters as if they were the Lord. The relationship between slaves and masters is a type of our relationship with Christ, our Master. We should obey Him as a slave, in singleness of heart.

In verse 6 Paul goes on to say, “Not with eye-service as men-pleasers, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the soul.” If a brother in slavery stands in his position and obeys his master, he is in the eyes of the Lord a slave of Christ, doing the will of God, and his service is as to the Lord and not to men (v. 7). Such a slave is to do the will of God from the soul. The words “from the soul” here equal from the heart, from the inner being. This means to serve not only with the physical body, but with the heart. The slaves were to serve “as to the Lord and not to men.” This indicates that Paul’s intention was to direct the slaves to the Lord. His desire was that they would learn to serve their masters as the Lord.

The masters who had the right over the lives of their purchased slaves should give up threatening, because the Lord in the heavens is the real Master of both them and the slaves. In the flesh, some may be slaves, and others may be masters. But in the eyes of the Lord, there is no difference between slaves and masters.

Regarding all these exhortations, Paul is making one key point: For the sake of the church life, we need to have a proper human living in this present age. This is an extremely important lesson for us all to learn.