



Ephesians Lesson 6 Chapter 6

In chapters 1-3 Paul established our new identity and new relationship to God through the blood of Christ. Jew and Gentile are now fellow citizens of heaven through the blood of Christ and the new covenant of faith. Chapter 4 discusses the fact that our new identity also requires new behaviors. The old man has been crucified, and a new person being made into the image of Christ is appearing. In chapter 5 Paul addresses the need for a new lifestyle that involves a new method of relating to one another. God has an established authority structure on earth that we are to live under: husband, wives, children, slaves, masters, etc. Although each of these positions come with their own individual and specific responsibilities of submission, we are all to mutually submit to one another out of fear of Christ (5:21).

Chapter 6 continues this theme for the first nine verses and then moves on to the theme of spiritual warfare. It's obvious that if we have identified our new position in Christ (chapter 1), if we are tearing down the divisions between Jew and Gentile (2:14-16), learning what it means to "walk in a manner worthy of our calling" (4:1), building up the body of Christ (4:12), "imitating God as beloved children" (5:1), and submitting to one another and honoring God's positions of authority (5:21-6:9), this would be gaining the attention of the spiritual forces of evil. Satan isn't going to sit still if all these things are going on in God's people. In chapter 6 Paul reminds us that we are in a fierce war and have powerful opposition, but there is a way to battle successfully against the enemy.

Fill in the chart of relationships and their responsibilities in regard to submission that Paul has given so far. Fill in the rest of the chart after completing chapter 6.

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Responsibilities</i>
<i>Husbands</i>	
<i>Wives</i>	
<i>Children</i>	
<i>Slaves</i>	
<i>Masters</i>	

READ EPHESIANS CHAPTER 6

- 1. Why do you think children obeying and honoring their parents is “right”? (right means “just, righteous, that which is in accordance with rule”) See also Col. 3:20.*

- 2. In what ways can children be “provoked to anger” instead of being disciplined and instructed in the Lord? See Col. 3:21. Why do you think only fathers are addressed in regard to this?*



Word Study

The word for "slave" in v. 5 is "doulos" or household servant and usually refers to subjection without the idea of bondage. The word "master" is "kurios" or a lord, one who exercises power. These terms correlate today to our positions as employee and employer.

3. From vs. 5-9, what are some general principles of behavior for us as employees (servants) and employers (masters)? How does God's command for submission work here? See also Col. 3:22-25.

4. Although we know the truths about who we are as God's people and even though we have all the principles of holiness, living it out is not an easy undertaking. Paul equates our daily lives to an intense battle against a powerful enemy. In vs. 10-11, what has to be our first strategy for success in the Christian life?



Make it practical:

In my life I will endeavor to:

to be strong in the Lord and the strength of His might.



Word Study

The word “wiles” (*methodia*) or “schemes” of the devil means deceit, craftiness, or cunning devices. It comes from a root that means “to lie in wait.” This means that Satan’s schemes are for the purpose of tripping us up or defeating us in our walk of righteousness.

5. From v. 12, what is vital for us to understand about these devices and schemes? See also 2 Cor. 10:3-5.

What is vital for us to remember about the battle? See 1 Cor. 15:53-58; Col. 2:15; 1 John 5:2-5.

6. What two things should putting on the armor of God enable us to do? V. 13

- 1.
- 2.

7. Paul now visualizes a Roman soldier geared for battle. List the six pieces of armor he mentions and how each one might be used in our battle.

Piece of armor	Use



8. *What role does prayer have in this battle (think in terms of communication between levels of authority on a battlefield), and why do you think it is so important? See also Phil. 4:6-7; Col. 4:2; 1 Thess. 5:17; 1 Tim. 1:2-4.*

9. *What is Paul's only prayer request to these people? Vs. 19-20*

10. *What request would you make to God on your own behalf after studying Ephesians?*

Prayer requests:

Group time notes:
