

Grace Bible Church
Adult Elective Winter 2017
Topic: Ephesians
Facilitator: David W. Brzezinski
Textbook Recommended: Living Insights - Ephesians by Chuck Swindoll

Ephesians 6

- 6:1-4
 - The principles of honor, respect, submission and living in harmony are the same for here as they were in chapter 5 regarding husbands and wives. **We can do all this because we are under the control of the Holy Spirit.**
 - Being subject to one's parents is a way of being subject to the Lord. ("in the Lord" qualifies the verb "obey").
 - Jesus was subject to His earthly parents (Luke 2:51).
 - NOTE: submission and obedience has nothing to do with inferiority or inequality.
 - Paul, under the Holy Spirit's inspiration, changes Exodus 20:12 and Deut. 5:16 and so allows the text to be applied more generally to his audience.
 - This is proverbial wisdom: learning from parents allows us to avoid destructive hardships.
 - The Christian home **is** the "school" which children need so very much!
 - Parents are not to provoke, exasperate, or goad their children in to anger or resentment. Instead, parents are to discipline and instruct their children.
 - Christian homes should be fun!!!
- 6:5-9
 - In the first century, slaves were typically more like domestic servants, or actual members of the household.
 - Paul notes that slavery was not a desirable situation (1 Cor. 7:21-23)
 - In the first century, slavery was typically more about socioeconomics than it was about race. While not a "good thing", slavery in some homes was associated with considerable freedom, rights, and responsibilities.
 - Something like 25-40% of the Roman population were slaves. They were cooks, tutors, gardeners, nannies, etc.
 - For us in the 21st century, we can best look at these passages as employer/employee relationships.
 - The employee is to submit with "fear and trembling" and with a "sincere heart". This is to show honor, respect, and integrity, in honest, dedicated work. This is true whether you like your employer or not. This is true whether you yourself are respected or not. This is true no matter what.
 - We work as unto the Lord when no one else is watching (and also when they are!!!).
 - The employer treats their employees with honor, respect, and integrity.

