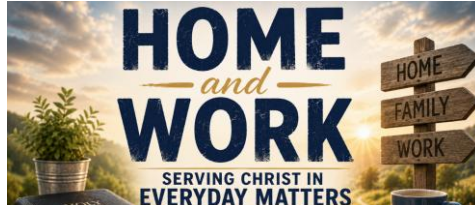


Expositional Preaching from the Authorized Version of the Holy Bible

Current Book: Ephesians – verse by verse

Scriptures for Today: Ephesians 6:1-9 – *Jesus Christ is our life – He is Lord of our home and work*

Today's Message:
"Home and Work"



INTRODUCTION

Last time, we learned of the great mystery of marriage – Paul spoke of Christ and His church. Marriage was created by God to be a living illustration of the Gospel. Today, we will work out our Christianity in real life with the home and workplace. What does your life look like beyond Sundays? Is Jesus Christ the Lord of your home? If Jesus Christ is truly your life, it should make a difference in your everyday relationships and responsibilities. Christianity must become practical. This is God's message to you...

LEARNING TOGETHER

❖ The Text Ephesians 6:1-9

A. *Serving Christ as Children – Obeying and Honoring God through our Parents.*

1. Christianity must become practical as **CHILDREN** in relationships with your parents.

- Ephesians 6:1 – *CHILDREN, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*
- Ephesians 6:2 – *Honour THY FATHER AND MOTHER; which is the first commandment with promise;*
- Ephesians 6:3 – *That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.*

Important Note

The family is the training ground for all relationships.

A child who learns to honor God-given authority is being prepared to walk with God and obey Him all the days of this life.

The Fifth Commandment
 Exodus 20:12

"Obey" – to listen attentively and to comply with parental authority

- ✓ To comply with commands, orders, or instructions of someone in authority over you

"In the Lord" – This qualifies the obedience; (not when commanded to sin against God)

- ✓ *Why? Because God established parental authority; part of your obedience to Jesus Christ*

"This is right" – it is morally right, divinely established, and part of God's created order

- ✓ Even societies unfamiliar with the Bible generally recognize parental authority

"Honour" – to value; to esteem. It goes beyond obedience – continues as adult children.

- ✓ Not based on parents being right; *Not if* parents are perfect, but **because of** position.

Biblical Examples

- **Jesus: Luke 2:41-52** – the perfect example – submission produced **GROWTH**.
 ✓ He had perfect knowledge, was strong in humility, and **flourished** as a child.
- **Absalom: 2 Sam 13-18** – tragedy of dishonor – rebellion produced **DESTRUCTION**.
 ✓ Handsome, gifted, charismatic, influential – **yet** rebellion destroyed his life.
 ✓ He allowed **bitterness** to grow, **undermined** his father, chose **pride** over humility.
 ✓ He **gained** followers, influence, temporary success. He **lost** – father, future, his life.

Jesus Christ

At age 12, He was the Creator, the Son of God, sinless, and knew more Scripture than the religious teachers. Yet He willingly submitted Himself to Mary and Joseph.

"... obey your parents IN THE LORD: for this is right."

Children: Do you speak respectfully? Honor when you disagree? Care for parents?

Parents: Children often **learn honor by watching**. How do you speak to your spouse? Your parents? Church leaders? Boss? Authority figures? You will shape their view of authority.

B. Serving Christ as Parents – Raising Children for the Lord

2. Christianity must become practical as **PARENTS** in relationships with your children.

Ways Parents Provoke
Inconsistency
 Punishing one day and ignoring the same behavior the next.
Hypocrisy
 Demanding standards not practical personally.
Unreasonable
 Expecting adult maturity from children.
Neglect
 Providing materially while abandoning spiritually.
Harshness
 Correction without affection.

Faithfulness is Key!
 Faithfulness matters more than perfection. Focus on regular time in the Bible, prayer and prioritize God!

- **Ephesians 6:4** – *And, ye FATHERS, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition OF THE LORD.*
 “Fathers” – Though applicable to both parents, fathers bear responsibility as leaders
 ✓ Adam was held accountable first; Abraham and Joshua led their households.
 “Provoke not” – To irritate repeatedly; to exasperate; to stir up resentment
 ✓ Not occasional disappointment; it refers to parenting patterns that create bitterness.
 “To wrath” – Ephesians says **wrath** (rebellion); Colossians says **discouraged** (resignation)
 “Bring them up” – To nourish, rear carefully; bring to maturity; **cultivation** over control.
 “Nurture” – Training, discipline, education, character formation → **shapes BEHAVIOR.**
 “Admonition” – Warning, counsel, instruction directed to the mind → **shapes THINKING.**

Biblical Examples *A Child’s Life is like a Garden [Plant → Weed → Water]*

- **Abraham: Genesis 18:19** – the **INTENTIONAL** father – God commended his home!
 ✓ He was **intentional**, provided loving **direction**, and his faith was **visible** AT HOME.
- **Eli: 1 Samuel 3:13** – the **PASSIVE** father – a sad parenting story in the Bible.
 ✓ He was a priest, a spiritual leader, respected by the nation – yet he **failed** at home.
 ✓ He **knew** rebellion, did not act – stole offerings, abused position, dishonored God
 ✓ Correction delayed is not; boundaries required; affection/authority work together
- **Lois and Eunice: 2 Tim 1:5** – the **FAITHFUL** influencers – mother and grandmother!
 ✓ No mention of Timothy’s father as a spiritual influence (**Acts 16:1** – Greek, unbeliever)
 ✓ Yet Timothy became a missionary, a pastor, and one of Paul’s closest friends!
 ✓ God’s design is dad + mom, but His grace is not limited by poor circumstances!

C. Serving Christ at Work – Daily labor for your Lord and Master

3. Christianity must become practical as employees and leaders on the **JOB.**

Joseph’s Example
 He served in:
 Parent’s house
 Potiphar’s house
 King’s prison
 Pharaoh’s palace
His circumstances changed, but his Master never did.
 Both Joseph and Jesus Christ became great leaders after being faithful servants.

- **Ephesians 6:5** – *SERVANTS, be obedient to them that are your masters...*
- **Ephesians 6:6** – *Not with eyeservice... but as the servants of Christ...*
- **Ephesians 6:7** – *With goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:*
- **Ephesians 6:8** – *Knowing that whatsoever good thing... receive of the Lord...*
- **Ephesians 6:9** – *And, ye MASTERS, do the same... your Master also is in heaven...*

“Servants” – many held skilled positions, managed businesses, taught children, managed \$
 “With fear and trembling” – with seriousness, respect, and diligence
 “In singleness of heart” – with sincerity, integrity, and undivided purpose – work honestly
 “As unto Christ... as the servants of Christ... as to the Lord” – you work for Jesus Christ

Biblical Examples

- **Joseph: Genesis 39-50** – working faithfully when life seems unfair
 ✓ Regardless of position; regardless of assignment; saw God above human authority.
- **Nehemiah: Nehemiah 1-6** – leading others for God’s glory
 ✓ Leadership was stewardship; worked beside the people he led; refused distractions

“... AS to the Lord, and not to men...”

Fathers/Parents: Teach the Bible intentionally; model Christ consistently; correct with grace and truth; make disciples of your children – not merely rule-followers.
Workers/Leaders: Work diligently; serve sincerely; lead fairly; remember eternal rewards.