



## EPHESIANS 5 PART 5

God, in His incredible love, did not leave the family to chance; He gave it a beautiful blueprint for success in the home. Within this design, He gives parents a sacred trust: to lead by demonstrating the way and to nurture the hearts placed in their care. This is more than providing rules; it is the holy work of modeling grace, training with love, and creating a sanctuary of encouragement where faith can flourish. In response to this loving leadership, children are given a learning opportunity: to honor. This call to honor is an act of trust in God's perfect design, a willing alignment with His plan that unlocks a current of divine blessing in their lives. When leadership is gentle and honor is genuine, the home becomes a reflection of heaven's peace. This same blueprint of godly leadership and honorable service is the one we are called to carry into our workplaces, making every interaction an act of worship.

Yet, we know this beautiful design is often under attack. When strife and misunderstanding creep in, we must remember that our struggle is rarely with each other. We have a spiritual enemy, a thief who comes only to "steal, and to kill, and to destroy" the unity and love God designed for us. As Pastor Steve powerfully reminds us, "Parents, your kids are not the enemy. Children, your parents are not the enemy". Today, let us choose to see past the immediate frustration and identify the true source of division. Let's lay down our weapons against one another and, filled with the Holy Spirit, stand united against the real enemy, fighting for our families instead of with them.

### Study Questions:

1. The sermon notes there is "no statute of limitations with the word of God" regarding honoring parents. For adults, how does the application of honoring parents change over time, especially when parents age or if relationships have been strained?
2. The true answer to strife in the home is a "regenerated heart". This New Testament concept echoes the Old Testament promise in Ezekiel 36:26 to give us a "new heart" and a "new spirit." How are these two ideas linked, and why is heart transformation more effective than simply trying to follow rules?
3. Ephesians 6:6-7 urges us to work "not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart". What is the fundamental difference between simply being a good employee and living as a "bondservant of Christ" in your job?
4. John 10:10 says the thief comes to "steal, and to kill, and to destroy," while Jesus came to give abundant life. Reflect on a past relational conflict. How might the outcome have been different if you had viewed the strife as an attack from the enemy rather than a fault in the other person?
5. "Your wife is not the enemy... your kids are not the enemy... your boss is not the enemy". What is a practical step you can take this week to pause during a moment of frustration and consciously redirect your battle against the real enemy, not the person in front of you?