

# Ephesians: Good News of the Church

[Ephesians 6:1-9](#)

“Walk with God: Family and Work”– December 4, 2022



## Introduction

Life has its challenges, but thankfully some things in life come easy - like marriage, parenting and work - Haha! We know that is not the case. Marriage, parenting and work are challenging, but can be some of the most fulfilling things we will do in life.

Since the fall, sinful pride has left us in a battle - what **we** think is best vs. what **God** thinks is best. Sin is the reason that marriage is challenging, parenting is difficult, and why work can be frustrating.

Even though we have been redeemed, we are still at war with our flesh. Sinful responses come naturally to us. A godly response demands going against the natural inclinations of our flesh. We must be filled with the Spirit of God. ([Eph. 5:18](#)) What does it look like for us to be filled with the Spirit during the week at home and at work?

## Sermon Outline

1. Walk in God's path for the family. Vs. 1-4
2. Work in God's path for the workplace. Vs. 5 – 9

## Read & Discuss

### 1) Read vs. 1 – 4

Children are to obey their parents. Mom and Dad don't always get everything right, but obedience to parents is right. God set things up this way; it is His design. When you obey, you are not just obeying mom and dad, but God Himself. Sometimes, it is difficult to obey. God, through His Spirit, helps you obey. Kids, can you remember a specific time when it was hard to obey your parents? Did you obey in spite of that? How did that turn out?

Left to ourselves, we are dead in our sins. But because God is rich in mercy and because of His great love for us, we can be brought near to God. Jesus bore the punishment of sin so that if we repent and trust in Christ, we can be “in Christ.” ([Ephesians 2:8-10](#)) It is only after you have been saved by grace that you are able to do good works. Regardless of your age, the decision to trust in Christ and turn from our sin is a decision that you must make. You must see your own need for a Savior and trust in Jesus. If you have questions about this, ask your parents or one of your pastors.

We are to honor our parents our entire life. This may include caring for our aging parents. A child learns how to love and obey God (the first commandment) by loving and obeying their parents (the fifth commandment). The home is meant to be a training ground where they learn how to honor and respect the authority of God. As we keep plodding along in obedience to God, our life becomes and apologetic for the wisdom of God. We are saying God's way is right, good, beautiful, and it works. When the pressure comes from the world, we can have confidence in the authoritative, sufficient, and good truth of God's word.

Paul turns to fathers in verse four, singling them out because they have a unique responsibility for the tone and direction of the home. Demands on a child, comparison, and selfish discipline can lead a child to become exasperated and leads them to resent the authority that God has put in their life for their good. Sinful anger gives the devil a foothold. If a father provokes a child, you are giving the devil a foothold in that relationship. It can break the spirit of a child and harden their heart. Fathers are called to exercise their authority so that children will accept God's authority that is good and leads to life.

Fathers are called to “bring them up,” providing everything that a child needs so that they flourish. Godly authority doesn't squash, hinder, or suffocate people. It helps a child flourish, blossom, and grow. ([2 Samuel 23:1-4](#)) Fathers should bring them up in discipline and instruction. Discipline is correction. ([Proverbs 22:15](#)) The aim is to teach, correcting the path in order to get to the goal. Fathers should teach the Bible to their kids, so that they know the good news of the Gospel and know how to live wisely. Single moms and moms with unsaved husbands, God will use you in this role to point your children to Himself and help them to flourish.

How God is using your children to further your sanctification? We will get it wrong sometimes. When we do, we need to go to our kids and ask for forgiveness. Do you struggle in your parenting? Is there another family in the church who you can come alongside to glean insight, help, and encouragement?

Six encouragements for parents:

1. Learn from others. Parenting happens in the context of the church.
2. Know your kids. There are principles that every Christian parent need to apply, but children are all made differently.
3. Teach by your example. So much of what our kids learn is by what we do. What do you model for your kids? Is there any area of disobedience in your life that is hindering your kids' obedience?
4. Pray.
5. Pray some more.
6. Keep praying.

## 2) Read vs. 5 – 9

You read a text like this and you may think that scripture is endorsing slavery, but for us to suggest that the Bible supports slavery is to twist God's word and make it say what it doesn't. What is the situation in Ephesus? Some suggest that one-third of the Roman Empire was enslaved. Some came to be slaves as prisoners of war. Others chose to go into slavery to pay off a debt. Slavery then was not based on race or ethnicity, and slaves often gained their freedom. It still isn't right, but it isn't what we think of based on our history.

We can apply this today in the workplace. The gospel of God's grace can redeem an intolerable situation. Paul tells them to obey their "earthly" masters. Earthly masters are temporary, but you should obey as you would Christ. The Christian master is under the same authority as the slave. Both are slaves of Christ. Live today in light of the accountability that you will give to your Master - Jesus.

Our workplace is not the same as the slave/master relationship but if the gospel can transform that relationship, how much more can it transform our workplace environment?

How do you see your value and identity? We are told by the world that titles, schooling, etc. give you value and identity. That is why you must do your work unto the Lord and not to man. We can keep doing a good job at work even if our boss overlooks, criticizes, and ignores us. Do your work for the Lord. What is your workplace environment like? Do you have a difficult boss? How are you able to do your work as unto the Lord? When we serve God in secret ([Matthew 6](#)), the world will not see what we do, but God notices, sees and cares. The most insignificant thing you do, if you do it for the Lord, God sees and will reward. How does that promise help you in your current workplace environment?

**Additional reading:** Mark 12:31; 1 Timothy 1:8-10; 1 Corinthians 7:21, Philemon

### **Prayer of Response**

1) After hearing God's Word, what sin do I need to confess? From what do I need to repent?

2) How should my life be lived this week based on what I have heard? What should I *understand, believe, desire, or do*?

Spend time praying together in response to God's word asking for His help and greater faith to follow Him in the week to com. If you missed the sermon on Sunday or would like to listen again, visit our website at <https://fbcum.org/sermons-new/>

**Next week's sermon text:** we turn to [1 John 3:4-10](#) "To Destroy the Devil's Works"