

Ephesians 6

Extra Questions and Commentaries

"Honor your father and mother" (6:2)

- In the following, underline the instructions given about older and younger relationships :
- Psalm 78:3-4 what we have heard and known, what our fathers have told us. 4 We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done. NIV
 - Proverbs 22:6 Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it. NAS
 - Proverbs 29:17 Correct your son, and he will give you comfort; He will also delight your soul. NAS
 - Lev 19:32 "Rise in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the LORD. NIV
 - 1 Tim 5:1-2 Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but exhort him as if he were your father. Treat younger men as brothers, 2 older women as mothers, and younger women as sisters, with absolute purity. NIV
 - 1 Peter 5:1-3 Therefore, I exhort the elders among you, as your fellow ...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight not under compulsion, but voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain, but with eagerness; 3 nor yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but proving to be examples to the flock.
 - 1 Peter 5:5 You younger men, likewise, be subject to your elders; and all of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, for GOD IS OPPOSED TO THE PROUD, BUT GIVES GRACE TO THE HUMBLE. NAS

Digging Deeper

What warning did Paul give about children in 2 Timothy 3:1,2? (Compare Romans 1:30)

"Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger" (6:4)

- What principles about disciplining do you find in Hebrews 12:5-11.

"Stand firm" (6:11,13)

- Mark the words "stand/withstand" in 6:11,13,14a What does the repetition of this command emphasize about the nature of our battle?

- Underline the things on which we are to hold onto/stand firm in/fight for.
 - Colossians 4:12 Epaphras...is always wrestling in prayer for you, that you may stand firm in all the will of God, mature and fully assured. NIV
 - Titus 1:8 He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. NIV
 - Hebrews 10:23 Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. NIV
 - 1 Timothy 6:12 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses. NIV
 - 1 Corinthians 16:13 Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be men of courage; be strong. NIV
 - Philippians 1:27 Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in one spirit, contending as one man for the faith of the gospel NIV
 - Philippians 4:1 Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends! NIV
 - John 15:4 "Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. NAS
- What was Paul able to say at the end of his life? 2 Timothy 4:7

FYI: "Satan works through evil forces that are in 'this dark world' before our eyes: wicked leaders, decadent pursuits, poverty, injustice, racism, promiscuity, materialism. The Evil One who parades as an angel of light blinds us to the devastating effects of these forces...."

We are also wrestling against 'spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms' (vs. 12). We are not used to thinking of evil in the 'heavenly realms.' Paul used this term broadly to characterize the spiritual world where evil schemes develop to ensnare the heart, confuse the mind, and entrap the soul. Our natural, physical orientation does not normally allow us to perceive this unseen world, and yet the Devil is so clever and able that he operates on both the worldly and the spiritual plane in his endeavor to destroy God's kingdom and people. The Bible therefore alerts us that Satan's deceit powerfully and pervasively influences every sphere of life.

Modern man may not think in terms of principalities and powers, and may consider himself emancipated from outmoded beliefs in angels and demons. But he is all too conscious of powerful and malignant forces operating against him, which he will not hesitate to describe as demonic. He knows that his individual strength is insufficient to resist them...These forces may be Frankenstein monsters of his own creation which no longer obey his commands; they may be subliminal horrors beyond his conscious control. He feels himself to be a helpless victim in a hostile cosmic order which is carrying him to a destruction which he cannot avert. He knows himself to be involved in situations against which his moral sense revolts, but he cannot do anything effective about...There is only one message that can bring hope to such a mood of frustration and despair, and that is the liberating message of the gospel. Christ has won the victory, and those who place their faith in Him may win the victory, too- and know these forces, for all their malignity, to be beaten forces. *'This is the victory that hath overcome the world, even our faith'* (1 John 5:4). But even so, so determined is the opposition which these forces offer to the believer that only by taking the armor of God...can he hope to stand his ground against them." - Bryan Chapell (143,144)

Belt of truth (6:14)

- Who is the enemy of truth? John 8:43,44
 - What effect did Paul say distortions of the truth have on us? Ephesians 4:14 (Contrast 4:15)

- Underline what is said about Jesus in the following:
 - John 1:14

 - John 1:17

 - 1 John 5:20

- Underline what Jesus associated with truth:
 - John 8:31-32 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; 32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."NAS
 - John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me. NAS
 - John 17:17 "Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth. NAS
 - John 18:37 Jesus answered, "You say correctly that I am a king. For this I have been born, and for this I have come into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who is of the truth hears My voice." NAS

- How else should truth impact our lives?
 - 1 John 3:18

 - 3 John 3

"Gospel of peace" (6:15)

- Underline the extent that God wants us to experience His peace:
 - 2 Thessalonians 3:16 Now may the Lord of peace himself give you peace at all times and in every way. The Lord be with all of you. NIV

 - 2 Peter 1:2 Grace and peace be yours in abundance through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. NIV

 - Philippians 4:7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. NASU

- With whom do we have peace? Romans 5:1; Ephesians 2:14

"Sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (6:17)

Food for Thought: To effectively use the sword, we must regard it **as the word of God - 'which is the word of God.'** If we are not confident in the inspiration of Scripture...then we will not use it effectively at all. But we must also take the sword of the Spirit in the sense of depending that He helps us to use it. Not only did the Spirit *give* us the Scriptures, but also He makes them alive to us (or us alive to them), and He equips us with the right thrust of the sword at the right time."
- David Guzik

"With all prayer and petition" (6:18)

- What other element does Colossians 4:2 add to prayer?
- What is one of the amazing benefits of prayer? Philippians 4:6-7

Digging Deeper

Read Psalm 27. Do you see any similarities between David's prayer and what Paul is portraying about the battle against evil?

"speak boldly, as I ought to speak" (6:20)

- What had Paul said about himself in earlier letters? 1 Corinthians 2:3-5
- What confidence did Paul show in the prayers others prayed for him? Philippians 1:18-20

Review

- Pick one or two of the following questions to answer.
 - *What did you find the most challenging about studying Ephesians? The most encouraging?*
 - *In what way(s) do you feel your understanding of God, your position in Christ or dealing with the enemy has changed or grown through this study? What did you learn that will have a significant impact on your life?*
 - *What step of faith, if any, have you been encouraged to take?*