

Ephesians 6:1-9

5-2-07

“Harmony in the Home & Oneness in the Workplace!”

1. Intro:

- 1.1. Gospel musician **Hilding Halverson** told of overhearing a conversation between his son and two other little boys. The youngsters were bragging about their dads. One boy said proudly, "My dad knows **the mayor** of our town!" Another said, "So, my dad knows **the governor** of our state!" Halverson's son then came up with this touching comment, "**That's nothing -- my dad knows God!**" Upon hearing this, Halverson quickly slipped away to his room and with tears in his eyes said, "*O God, I pray that my boy will always be able to say, 'My dad knows God.'*" He knew he had been paid the supreme tribute.
- 1.2. **Outline: Harmony in the Home & Oneness in the Workplace!**
- 1.3. **Intro** – Read 6:12 about spiritual warfare.
 - 1.3.1. It seems that most of our spiritual battle comes from these **3 areas: In the Marriage** (last week), **In the Home, On the Job, & On the Battlefield** (next week).
 - 1.3.2. Spirit filled Christians will manifest **Christlikeness** in each of these situations.

2. HARMONY IN THE HOME! (1-4)

- 2.1. **CHILDREN!** (1-3)
- 2.2. **2 Things:** Obey & Honor. (*both should be exercised continuously*)¹
- 2.3. **OBEY!** (1)
 - 2.3.1. One mother struggling with her son all day finally flung up her hands and shouted, "**All right, Billy, do whatever you want!...Now let me see you disobey THAT!**"
 - 2.3.2. If children do not learn to **obey at home**, they are not likely be obedient **on the job** or in **the army of the Lord**. [Or the police, teachers, any in authority]
 - 2.3.3. That's why I believe that learning in the home is sooo important!
 - 2.3.4. If we have not learned to **take orders**, we will **not be** too successful at **giving orders**, either as **parents** or **employees**.
- 2.4. **For this is right** - it is a **proper course to follow** in society.
 - 2.4.1. Sometimes the children won't see it as the "**right**" thing to do in a given situation, but obedience is the right thing to do.

¹ Shepherd's Notes; pg.67.

- 2.5. **HONOR!** (2,3)
- 2.6. To **honor** = to **value** or **revere** something/someone.
- 2.6.1. **Honor** is a broader word than **obey**.
- 2.6.2. For **younger** children – it calls for **obedience**.
- 2.6.3. For **older** children – it calls for **respect & care** for the parents.
- 2.7. Paul sites the 5th commandment.
- 2.8. **Live long** - It is **improbable** that an **undisciplined** person will live a **long life**.
- 2.8.1. An Israelite who persistently **disobeyed** his parents was not privileged to enjoy a long, stable life in the land of Israel.
- 2.8.2. A clear example of this was Eli's sons **Hophni & Phinehas** 1 Sam. 4:11.
- 2.8.3. Though that promise was given to Israel in the Old Testament, **the principle** still holds true today.
- 2.9. **PARENTS!** (4)
- 2.10. Your danger is being an **authoritarian** & not exercising **loving spiritual authority**.
- 2.10.1. The **delicate balance** of being **tough** yet **tender** isn't easy to maintain
- 2.11. **Fathers** are addressed because they represent the **governmental head** of the family on whom rests the responsibility of child discipline. (no, moms aren't exempt in provoking)
- 2.12. **Provoke** – exasperate, or exacerbate.
- 2.12.1. Making unreasonable demands, petty rules, or showing favoritism.
- 2.12.2. **Best way to provoke**: show favoritism; compare them to their siblings(or others); have unrealistic standards(out of reach); over-indulge them(especially when you feel guilty for not handling a situation rt); discourage them when possible; don't ever reward them(Luther used to say: "Spare the rod and spoil the child" -- that is true; but beside the rod keep an apple, to give him when he has done well."); don't fulfilled your promises to them; treating them like boarders rather than children; don't admit mistakes; ridicule them; neglect them; use abusive cutting words; especially sarcasm; or physical abuse. - **Best way to provoke**.
- 2.12.3. The danger is being an **authoritarian** & not exercising **loving spiritual authority**.
- 2.13. **Bring them up** – To rear or nourish.
- 2.13.1. To provide for **physical** and **spiritual** needs w/**tender care**.
- 2.13.2. Not like **William Howard Taft**, when one night at the dinner table his **youngest boy** made a disrespectful remark to him. There was a sudden hush. Taft looked thoughtful. "Well," said Mrs. Taft, "aren't you going to punish him?" "If the remark was addressed to me as **his father**, he certainly will be punished," said Taft. "**However**, if he addressed it to **the President** of the United States, that is his constitutional privilege."

- 2.14. **Training** – speaks of **discipline** used to correct transgressions of laws.
 2.14.1. It includes **directing** and **correcting**.
- 2.15. **Admonition** – Instruction. (“a putting in mind, training by word”)
 2.15.1. **By encouragement & when that isn’t sufficient then by reproof.**
- 2.16. Parents are to **train** and **instruct** “**in the Lord.**”
 2.16.1. He is to be **the center** of their **relationship & their teaching & learning.**
- 2.17. **Read Gen.18:19.**
 2.17.1. That your kids would **keep God’s way & do rightly & stand for justice.**

3. ONENESS IN THE WORKPLACE! (5-9)

- 3.1. (Shepherd’s Notes) The Roman world lived with slavery. From the earliest times, the government accepted & promoted the practice. In the Roman world, treatment of slaves varied considerably. By the 1st century, however, the institution of slavery was changing. Public sentiment was against harsh treatment of slaves, & many leading orators spoke against the institution. This caused many masters to free their slaves.
 3.1.1. Christianity arose in a real-life, tension-filled setting.
 3.1.2. Paul’s approach to the slavery problem of his day was to urge **both slaves & masters to acknowledge Christ as their Lord.**
 3.1.2.1. (Key for all Christians relationships: marriage; parents/children)
- 3.2. **Slavery** existed in Paul’s day and he **didn’t** try to overthrow it.
- 3.3. **Q: Did you know that Christ believed in slavery?** (to God, not man!)
 3.3.1. **See 1 Cor.7:17-24.**
- 3.4. (8) **Whether slave or free** – reminds us **today** that Paul’s instruction is **just as applicable** to the **modern-day employee** as to the **1st century slave.**
- 3.5. **EMPLOYEES!** (5-8)
- 3.6. Don’t be a **clock-watcher**, but obey from the heart!
- 3.7. **Serve your employer as you would serve Christ.**
- 3.8. In her book *Today’s Good Word*, Ethel Sutton told the story of a **young British soldier** who was **blinded** in battle. He was a trained musician, so after he recovered from his injury he spent much of his time playing the piano for the wounded who had been sent to a London hospital. He sometimes wondered if anyone was paying attention to his music, for he often heard the tramping of feet through the corridors as visitors came and went. But he never let this distract him. He always put his best effort into his playing, hoping his music would encourage and comfort those who were depressed by their painful injuries. One day when he paused to rest, he heard somebody nearby heartily clapping his hands. Turning his sightless eyes in that direction, he asked with a smile, “Who are you?”

“I am your King!” was the reply. The British monarch was visiting the wounded to cheer them and strengthen their morale. Without realizing it, the young man had been using his talent to entertain royalty.

- 3.9. **Fear** – Respect. Same word as 5:33.
- 3.10. **Trembling** –
- 3.11. **Sincerity** - simplicity, uprightness, singleness of heart.
- 3.12. **In sincerity of heart as to Christ** – An employer can buy your **time**, your **physical presence** at a certain location, even a number of skilled **muscular motions** per hour or day. **But you can't buy a man's initiative, loyalty, nor his devotion of heart.**
- 3.13. **Not with eyeservice** – That's **labor** when the master is present, **but relaxation & laziness** as soon as he's gone.
- 3.13.1. **A retired man became interested in the construction of an addition to a shopping mall. Observing the activity regularly, he was especially impressed by the conscientious operator of a large piece of equipment. The day finally came when my friend had a chance to tell this man how much he'd enjoyed watching his scrupulous work. Looking astonished, the operator replied, "You're not the supervisor?"**
- 3.14. **Menpleasers** – One who tries to please men at the sacrifice of principle.
- 3.14.1. **Employees, on an average, spend 34% of their paid time not working.**²
- 3.15. **With goodwill/Wholeheartedly** – **It suggests a good will that does not wait to be compelled to action!**
- 3.15.1. **It's to be as if the servant was serving the Lord directly.** 😊
- 3.15.2. **We serve Christ in our daily duties.** (even the most menial)
- 3.16. **“Every job is a self-portrait of the person who did it.”** Zig Ziglar
- 3.17. **3 stone masons** were asked on a **construction project** what they were doing:
- 3.17.1. The 1st replied that he was laying bricks.
- 3.17.2. The 2nd described his work as that of building a wall.
- 3.17.3. The 3rd laborer who demonstrated genuine esteem for his work when he said, **"I am raising a great cathedral."**
- 3.18. **EMPLOYERS!** (9)
- 3.19. Don't forget, you are **2nd in command**, & must one day **give account to the Lord!**
- 3.20. **Treat your employees as you would treat Christ.**
- 3.21. **Do the same things to them** – that is, to please the Lord in their dealings with them.
- 3.22. Slave owners were to **“let up on” threatening** them & to treat them **justly and fairly.**
- 3.22.1. They themselves were servants w/a Master who's an example to them.

² U.S.News from 10,000 Illustrations.

- 3.23. He shows **no partiality** regardless of one's rank.
- 3.24. Only a *Spirit-controlled believer* (5:18) is able to fulfill the obligations given in this section.
- 3.24.1. Many of these verses emphasize **selflessness**, which results in **harmony**, one evidence of the Spirit's work!
- 3.25. Philemon 15,16 “For perhaps he departed for a while for this *purpose*, that you might receive him forever, no longer as a slave but **more than a slave—a beloved brother**, especially to me but how much more to you, both **in the flesh and in the Lord.**”
- 3.26. **End:** They used to tell this story around the 20th Century-Fox offices in New York. The company had advertised for a salesperson and got this reply from an applicant: “I am at present selling furniture at the address below. You may judge my sales ability if you will stop in to see me at any time, pretending that you are interested in buying furniture. “When you come in you can identify me by my red hair. And I will have no way of identifying you. Such salesmanship as I exhibit during your visit, therefore, will be no more than my usual workday approach, and not a special effort to impress a prospective employer.” **Despite hundreds of other applicants, the redheaded furniture salesperson got the job.**

Dear Ann Landers:

I am writing from behind bars. The charge? A felony--child molesting. Not a pleasant subject, I realize, but this letter is not being written to be pleasant or to gain sympathy. You've never seen me in the parks or near playgrounds looking for victims. I don't play ball and I don't give out candy. I don't leer at children or stare at them, yet I've never lacked for victims. I've held several positions of responsibility working with the public. You've probably met me and liked me. Your children have learned that I can fix a bike and will talk to them when no one else has time to listen. When Mom was too busy or Dad was too tired, they came to me. I know more about your children's teachers and their school problems than you because they knew I was interested. The two little girls I molested can never regain what was taken away from them and I will spend five years in prison. I was molested as a child and feel certain that at least two of my victims will grow up to be molesters. I am sick at heart, but the damage is done and I can't undo it. The next time your child has something to tell you, don't be too busy to listen. Ask yourself, **if I won't listen, who will?**