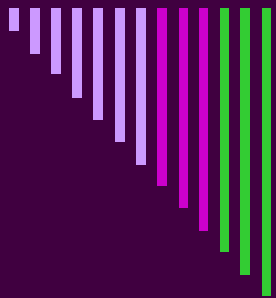


# **EPHESIANS**

## **Chapter 6:1-24**

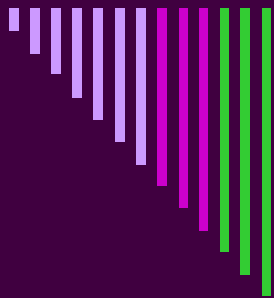
**Jim Hoffman**

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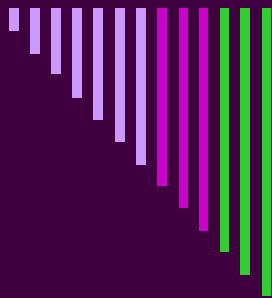
# Spirit-filled Home

- Paul's theme of submission continues in Chapter 6 with parents/children and master/slave relationships.
- If you recall, it is in life's interpersonal relationships where the effect of the Holy Spirit's control in your life makes the biggest impact.
- We praise Him and thank Him for our release and enjoyment, but how well we submit ourselves to the needs of others is what makes our world take notice.



# Spirit-filled Home

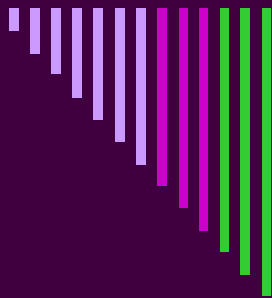
- Most of us find it easy to praise God and thank God, but submitting to one another is where the Spirit-filled life really matters to those around us.
- The world takes little notice of how we worship and interact personally with our God, but it does take notice when we love enough to meet the needs of those around us.
- James 1:27 Real religion, the kind that passes muster before God the Father, is this: Reach out to the homeless and loveless in their plight, and guard against corruption from the godless world. (from THE MESSAGE)



## Eph 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." NIV

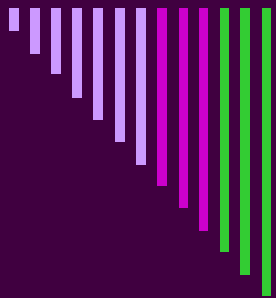
- The first duty of children is to obey their parents. This is not only true to those who believe the bible, but it is true in almost every religion and culture of the world.
- Many psychologists believe that if a child is allowed to disobey his parents that he is very likely to grow up to disobey God as well.
- They instinctively make an association between earthly father and heavenly Father and follow what 'worked' for them in childhood.



Eph 6:1-3

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 "Honor your father and mother"-which is the first commandment with a promise— 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." NIV

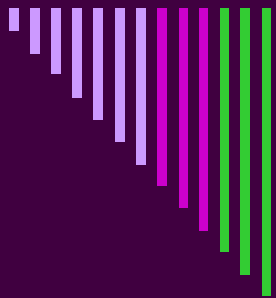
- Traditional Christian handling of the ten commandments places this command (#6) in the second table where human relationships are covered, but traditional Jewish handling of the sixth commandment has it in the first table.
- Could it be that honoring our parents has as much, or more, bearing on our relationship to God as it does to our relationship to our parents?



## Eph 6:1-3

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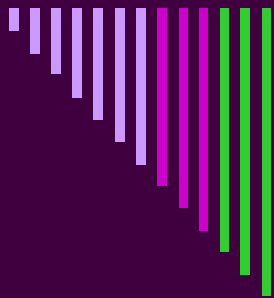
- Paul not only mentions obedience, but honor as well. (prize, count as valuable)
- What if your parents are not deserving of honor? Look harder.
- We are not called to fabricate something for which we can honor our parents, but we are called to at least try to show them in the best possible light while being truthful.



Eph 6:4

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV

- The negative instruction first; perhaps because if fathers frustrate their children with unfairness and unattainable goals that the child will not be open to his instruction about God.
- Fathers, though larger and more powerful than their children, are not to bully their children. Fathers who set the bar so high that it cannot be attained cause their children to be bitter.

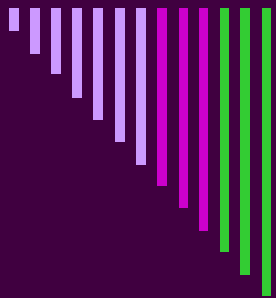


## Eph 6:4

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV

- Perhaps, dads, all we need to do is to consider how our heavenly Father deals with us. He deals firmly, but lovingly.
- You might answer that “God did set the bar out of our reach. So high in fact that we have no chance to reach it.” ... yes, but then He lifted us over it on Calvary.
- Perhaps the lesson for us is to set the bar high, but never so high that we cannot assist them in reaching it.

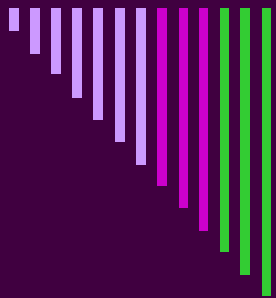




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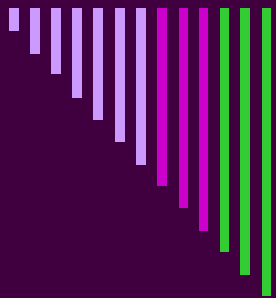
- Fathers are also told to bring up their children in the training and instruction of the Lord.
- We train when we educate and follow up to ensure compliance and proficiency.
- We admonish when we provide the truth about failing to comply with the Lord's requirements.



## Eph 6:4

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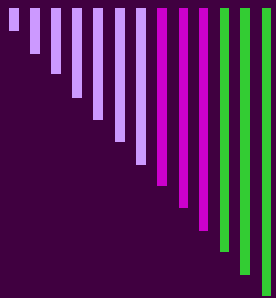
- A logical question .... How can a father train and instruct unless he is first trained and instructed?
- It is essential for all fathers to know the word of God well enough to teach it to his children and help them to apply it.
- It is equally essential for all fathers to know God in a personal and intimate way.



## Eph 6:4

4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. NIV

- The pain that does not diminish .... When our children go their own way and do not pursue God there is perhaps no greater pain.
- When this innocent ‘bundle of joy’ grows up and turns his back on God and all that you’ve taught him it is heartbreaking.
- At the end of the day, make sure you have done all that you can to help your kids find God. Then it’s up to them.

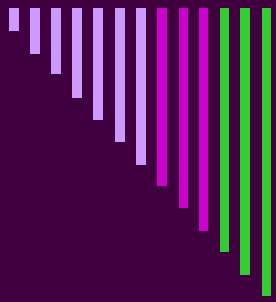


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# Ephesians 6:5-9

## Slaves and Masters

- Paul is not arguing for, or against slavery in this text. He is giving instructions for how to live in the world that was their's.
  - The fact is that at the time of his letter as much as 50% of the Roman world was in slavery. (perhaps 60 million people)
  - For us, the application is best suited for what we know as employer / employee relationships.
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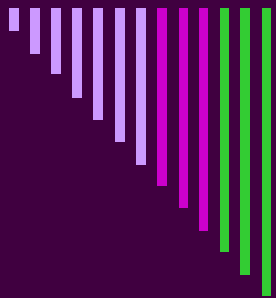


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# Ephesians 6:5-9

## Slaves and Masters

- As employees we should:
    - Respect our supervisors.
    - Do more than the minimum required.
    - Maintain a good and positive attitude.
    - Work as hard when unsupervised as when supervised.
    - Remember who you really serve.
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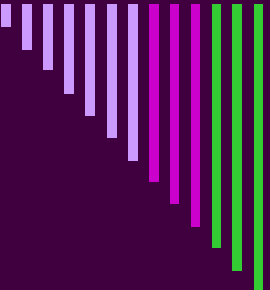


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# Ephesians 6:5-9

## Slaves and Masters

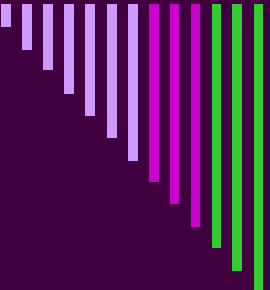
- As supervisors we should:
    - Remember our authority is borrowed.
    - Treat employees as you want to be treated.
    - Never forget that your employees have an advocate that is your judge.
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Eph 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. NASB

- Early in this letter it was pointed out that we are ‘seated together with Christ’ in the heavens.
  - Later we were told to ‘walk worthy’ of the life we have been called to live.
  - Now here, near the end of the letter we are told to ‘stand firm’.
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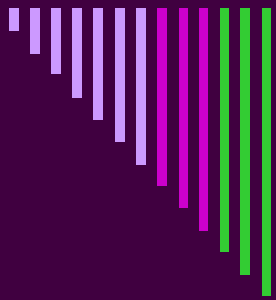


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Eph 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. NASB

- Clearly there are times to rest in our position (sit), times to advance and take ground (walk), and there are also times when need to hold our ground (stand).
  - Make no mistake about it, we have an enemy who goes about like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour.
  - The very same one that Jesus described as one who steals, kills, and destroys.
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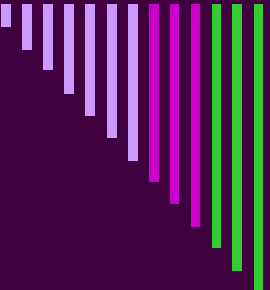




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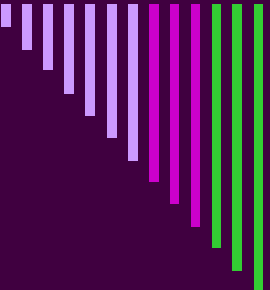
Eph 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord, and in the strength of His might. 11 Put on the full armor of God, that you may be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. NASB

- Our enemy, Satan, knows a lot, but he is not omniscient.
  - He is very powerful, but not omnipotent.
  - He gets around, but he is not omnipresent.
  - He is to be respected, but not feared.
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Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

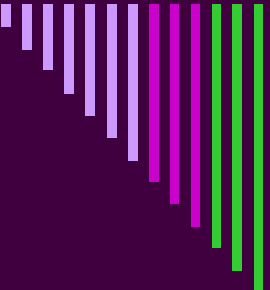
- Be certain of this .... We are in a battle and the battle may manifest itself in physical ways, but it is primarily a spiritual battle.
  - Every thing that we attempt for the Lord is resisted in one way or another by the enemy and his demons.
  - We should not wonder why spiritual advances for ourselves and our loved ones are difficult; they are being met with resistance.
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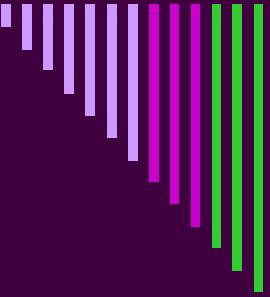
Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

- There is an unseen battle that is in constant motion around us in the unseen spiritual world.
  - If we could peer into that realm for just an instant, we would no longer doubt anything that God has told us and we would be evangelistic zealots.
  - For now, we must observe what can be seen to gain an understanding of the battle that we cannot see.
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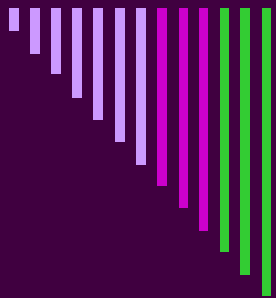
Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

- Rulers – there are certain regions of the world where Satan has effective rulers. Demons assigned to a geography.
  - Authorities – authority has to do with cultural values. Greed, lust, and all evil desires. (you can have authority without ruling, Mother Teresa is an example, but not a dark one)
  - Powers – power concerns control. There are powers that influence how a society thinks and behaves. (our secular media is one)
  - Spiritual forces in heavenly places – the devil and his hordes of demons.
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Eph 6:12 For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places. NASB

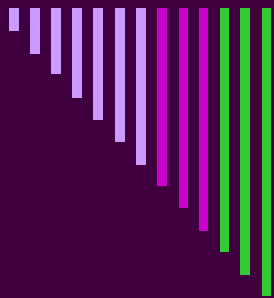
- So you see that our struggle is not against flesh and blood; it's against an unseen spiritual enemy and his devices.
  - When you rule somewhere you have great power to propagandize and control what people perceive as truth.
  - Our role in this battle is to stand up, and stand against the forces that want to destroy what God wants to build.
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## Eph 6:13

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. NASB

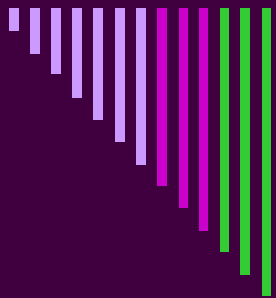
- The belt of truth could be the bible itself or it could be something more participatory for us like telling the truth.
- When we tell the truth in our every day lives we are shedding light in a dark world and darkness is always overcome by light.
- When we tell the truth we are resisting the devil and, according to James, when we resist him he runs from us.



Eph 6:13

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- The breastplate of righteousness - every time we do some righteous act we are entering into the battle of the ages.
- Satan wants to see the believer so heavenly minded that he is no earthly good.
- Rom 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but **overcome evil with good.** NIV

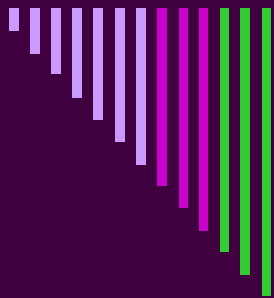


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- Feet ready to carry the gospel – the best remedy for reducing evil in the world is seek to win the evil people to Christ.
- This is how we can be ‘more than conquerors’ when we see our enemy, not just defeated, but brought into the family of God.
- Satan cannot be saved, but when we help to preach the gospel we are doing something positive in the battle that is around us and unseen.

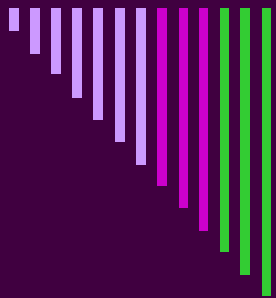




## Eph 6:13

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- The shield of faith – one of the things that helps us to tell the truth, do good works, and help to spread the good news is our faith.
- A general confidence in God is what allows us to keep going in the Christian life. The world, the flesh, and the devil oppose us so we had better have a faith that works.
- In this case, the soldier of the cross needs his faith to help to ward off the ‘shots’ of the enemy.



## Eph 6:13

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. NASB

- The helmet of salvation – when we came to know Jesus as our savior we were regenerated and that regeneration extends to our minds.
- Without a regenerated and renewed mind we will be much more likely to become confused and frustrated in the heat of the spiritual battles that we enter.
- The Christian life requires us to think; see Phil 4:8-9

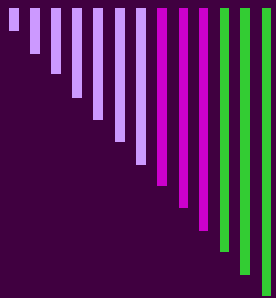
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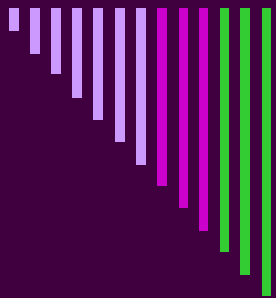
- Phil 4:8 Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable — if anything is excellent or praiseworthy — **think about such things.** 9 **Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me — put it into practice.** **And the God of peace will be with you.** NIV
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## Eph 6:13

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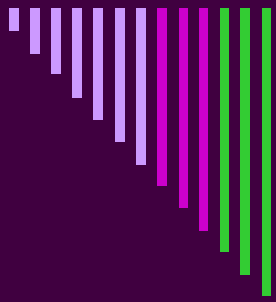
- The sword of the Spirit – if Jesus Christ used scripture in order to defeat Satan, how dare we think that we would could use a lesser weapon.
- Three temptations were set before Jesus and each time he said ‘it is written’.
- When we are tempted, the best weapon we have is to remind ourselves of what the bible says about what we are offered and allow the word of God to give us the strength to say ‘no’.



## Eph 6:13

13 Therefore, take up the full armor of God, that you may be able to resist in the evil day, and having done everything, to stand firm. NASB

- And pray in the Spirit – if we are wise we will see ourselves as weak and easy prey for the enemy if we try to stand on our own.
- We need to ‘pray without ceasing’ each day asking God to change us, help us, and protect us.
- At the end of the day it’s a familiar story – do everything that we can to win in this battle and then ask God to do those things that we can’t do.



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What do you think?

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