

Refuge City Church — October 22, 2023
“Witnesses of your walk” (Ephesians 6:1-9)

Introduction

- **LAST WEEK:** We looked at the institution of marriage and its vital importance as a testimony to the work of the Spirit in us.
- **TODAY:** We look at the witness we present to others closest to us, both in the home and in the workplace.

“Under your roof” [Verses 1-4]

“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

Verse 1: “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

- **Obey your parents** = an *act* of submission, that comes by listening.
 - It doesn’t say, “Hear what your parents have to say, and then decide if you want to follow the rules.”
 - Note that ‘parents’ is plural. Children are to submit to both dad and mom.
- Likewise, children are to obey their parents, as they obey the Lord.
 - Obviously not all children will understand what this means, so it is up to the parents to *model* this for them.
 - Anyone have to teach their children how to disobey??
- It’s the right thing to do [righteous/proper]
 - **Hosea 14:9**, “...for the ways of the Lord are right, and the upright walk in them, but transgressors stumble in them.”
 - Just like our relationship with the Lord. There may be things He tells you to do that you don’t want to do.
 - God will call us to do things we don’t understand.
 - However, our obedience is an action of *trust* that He knows better than we do, and has our best interest in mind.

Verses 2-3: “Honor your father and mother.”

- *Honor* = to value highly; to hold in high respect.
 - Honoring your parents is having a right attitude towards them while obeying them.
 - **Proverbs 1:8**, “Hear, my son, your father’s instruction, and forsake not your mother’s teaching,”
 - *Remember:* It’s not just good advice. It’s a command by God!
- There are so many things we need to be aware of, and actively seek to guard our children from.

- We have to be aware of the cultural deception the enemy uses to destroy our children and dismantle the family.

I. We live in a fallen/sinful world.

- **Romans 5:12**, “Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.”

- Proof: Attributed to the Minnesota Crime Commission (1926)

- “Every baby...is completely selfish and self-centered. He wants what he wants when he wants it...Deny him those and he seethes with rage and aggressiveness which would be murderous were he not so helpless...”

- So consider the *critical importance* of teaching, modeling, and sharing God’s truth in the home.

2. Deceptive schemes that tear the family apart [idolatry, perversion, pride...]

- Satan’s goal is to disrupt & destroy the family. [**John 10:10**, “The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy..”]

- He *steals* your children’s spiritual vision by seducing them with flattery and self-centered pleasures; at every age.

- He *kills* their opportunity to live by the Spirit by manipulating them to devalue their lives as image bearers of God, online and off. [he kills joy, hope, purpose, and purity]

- He seeks to *destroy* the family by presenting sins of pride & selfishness that split families apart.

- **Proverbs 1:5, 7**, “Let the wise hear and increase in learning, and the one who understands obtain guidance... The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction.”

Verse 4: “Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.”

- What kind of parenting would provoke anger?

- According to missionary/author Ruth Paxson, “... do not irritate or exasperate or discourage by *unreasonable* demands, by *unnecessary* interference, by *irritable* nagging, by *perpetual* faultfinding, by *harsh* criticism, by *unceasing* ‘don’ts’, by a *dictatorial* manner, by *unjust* commands.”

- What can we ascertain, but that there is room for *reasonable* demands, *necessary* interference, *agreeable/cordial* nagging, *momentary* faultfinding, *gentle* criticism, *occasional* don’ts, by a *humble/meek* manner, by *just/righteous* commands according to God’s Word.

- Our position is to help them grow to know the Lord and His Word.

- **Deuteronomy 6:4-7**, “Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.”

- If you are not in a position to reflect Jesus in your home, you *do not* relinquish that responsibility to anyone.

- Get yourself right with the Lord and lead by example.
- **2 Timothy 3:16-17**, “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”
- **QUOTE:** “The love and security the Christian experiences in Christ must extend to every relation in the earthly family life. There is no higher privilege then to be a Christian parent...” [Dwight Hervey Small]

“In your place of work” [Verses 5-9]

“Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.”

- Why do we give ourselves a ‘pass’ when it comes to how we behave in the workplace?
 - In everything discussed in our study of Ephesians, why does it seem we set aside humility, patience, and submission in our job?
 - Do we consider the circumstances different then the church and home?
 - The difference may fall on the spiritual nature of those we work with.
 - We should not be unequally yoked with a non-believer in marriage.
 - We hope and pray that what we model for our children will affect their eternity.
 - Yet, we *can not* turn off the witness when we walk into work...
- If we don’t share our faith verbally, how do we witness for Jesus?
 1. [obey your earthly masters] **Submission, Respect & Obedience:** doing what is asked of you.
 - **Romans 13:1, 7**, “...For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God...respect to whom respect is owed, honor to whom honor is owed.”
 2. [with fear and trembling] **Fear:** not working out of fear of losing your job, but rather doing the job as well as you can.
 3. [with a sincere heart] **Sincerity:** your heart attitude to please the Lord. Look beyond your circumstances to the one who has provided for you.
 - **Colossians 3:23**, “Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”
 4. [rendering service with a good will] **Consistency:** Do you tend to only do your best work when your boss is watching, or when you know they’re coming to observe?
 - Whether the boss is looking or not, our effort & output should be consistent.

5. [doing the will of God] **Gratitude:** “As to the Lord”; who are you pleasing by how you work?
 - **1 Thessalonians 5:18**, “give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”
- **[verse 9]** “Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.”
 - *Nothing* changes when you move up the ladder from servant/employee to master/employer. The same principles apply!
 - **James 1:17**, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change.”
- **QUOTE:** “Grace...enables us to do the business of heaven while we are attending to the business of earth: it sanctifies the common duties of life by showing us how to perform them in the light of heaven.” [Charles Spurgeon]
 - **1 Corinthians 7:22-23 NASB**, “For he who was called in the Lord while a slave, is the Lord’s freedman; likewise he who was called while free, is Christ’s slave. You were bought with a price; do not become slaves of men.”

Conclusion

- Our walk in the Lord is of extreme importance when it comes to being an *example* and *witness* to the transforming power of God’s grace.
 - Our children will witness it, and by God’s grace will grow to pursue Jesus.
 - Our status as an employee or employer will be a witness to those outside the home, and by God’s grace will understand why we work the way we do.
- Some are called to the mission field to go and make disciples in other countries.
 - Don’t forget that our greatest mission field is right under the roof in which we live and work.
 - **2 Corinthians 4:6**, “For God, who said, “Let light shine out of darkness,” has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”
- As we conclude our study in the book of Ephesians over the next two weeks, we maneuver from walking to warfare.

Closing Prayer/Response Worship