

# Submission: The Key to a Successful Family!

God's Will for Today's Children!



# Paul's Letter to the Believers at Ephesians!

**The Text:**

Ephesians 6:1-3!

**The Title:**

Submission: The Key to a Successful Home!

The Ultimate Act of Worship is Obedience!

**The Theme:**

(Encouragement & Exhortation of Christ's Church)

God's Eternal Purpose in the Establishing  
and Completing of His Church!

# The **Outline** of the Second Section!

II. (4:1-6:9) The **PRACTICE** of the Believer!  
(How Wives, and Husbands, and Children submit to God)

A.(4:1-16) Walk in **UNITY**.

B. (4:17-32) Walk in **HOLINESS**.

C. (5:1-6) Walk in **LOVE**.

D. (5:7-17) Walk in the **LIGHT**.

E. (5:17-6:9) Walk in **WISDOM**.

## Let's Get Familiar With The Setting!

The Believers at Ephesus were influenced by a Hedonistic and Narcissistic Society!

**The Greek's view of marriage** was that no legal procedure was necessary to divorce a wife because women were not considered to be equal to men.

### **The Athenian Statesman Demosthenes:**

*We have courtesans (prostitutes) for the sake of pleasure;  
we have concubines (women live-ins) for the sake of daily cohabitation;  
and we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately  
and for being faithful guardians for household affairs.*

**The Roman's view of marriage** was even worse. Dismissing a wife was not viewed as the exception but rather the norm. To the Roman marriage was nothing more than legalized prostitution. If a wife (or her children) was no longer wanted she could be discarded or put to death (Roman Law: The Husband's or Father's "Protest").

## Let's Get Familiar With The Setting!

The Believers at Ephesus were influenced by a Hedonistic and Narcissistic Society!

### The Greek and Roman influence on the Ephesian family was great!

As a result of the sexual activity in the Temple of Artemis, and on the streets of Ephesus, any concept of a normal marriage or home-life was virtually non-existent.

Wives (and their children) were being dismissed from their homes and cast out into the streets of the city with no place to go, at the whim of their husbands.

Women walked the streets (*filled with men visiting the city from all around the world*) seeking a way to provide for themselves and for their children.

Their fate was that of prostitution, or at best to become another man's concubine.

In this section Paul encourages and exhorts believers to use their homes as illustrations of God's gospel message. It is here that believers are called to cast aside their old way of life and fulfill their new heavenly calling ... 4:1, 5:1-2, 6:20!

# Today's Sermon Outline!

## Submission: The Key to a Successful Family!

Ephesians 6:1-3 / Focus on Christian Children!

- I. (6:1a) The Apostle's **CRY!** (Who is Paul talking to?)
- II. (6:1b) The Apostle's **COMMAND!**  
(What is Paul saying?)
- III. (6:2-3) The Apostle's **CLARIFICATION!**  
(Why is Paul saying it?)

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Ephesians 6:1-3 / Focus on Christian Children!

## I.(6:1a) The Apostle's CRY! (Who is Paul talking to?)

Proverbs 23:24

The father of the righteous will greatly rejoice, and he who begets a wise son will be glad in him. Let your father and mother be glad, and let her rejoice who gives birth to you.

Psalms 127:3-5

Behold, children are a gift from the Lord; the fruit of the womb is a reward. Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, so are the children on one's youth. How blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them.

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### II. (6:1b) The Apostle's **COMMAND!**

(What is Paul Saying?)

- A. **The Command / What:** Children obey your parents!
- B. **The Conclusion / Why:** Because its right before God!

*Obedience is not determined by some psychological case study, nor is it to be based on one's circumstance or on a situation. Here Paul reminds believing children that obedience (as to the Lord / v.21) is always the right course of action because it pleases God. This teaching is most relative today because our children are being taught that they have been liberated from any and all forms of authority.*

*The United Nations (in 1959) passed a declaration called "The Child's Bill of Rights!" Which states that children have been ...*

*Liberated from **traditional moral values**,  
Liberated from **parental authority**,  
Liberated from **all forms of discrimination**,  
Liberated from **nationalism and patriotism**.*

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- II. (6:1b) The Apostle's **COMMAND!**  
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(Why is Paul saying it?)
  - A. (vs.1-2) Built on Two Verbs of Action: Obey & Honor!
  - B. (v.3) Based on God's O.T. Promise: To Obedient Children!