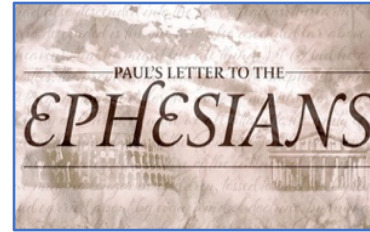


Community Group Questions:

1. What is one challenge to harmony that you face in your relationships?
2. How easy or difficult is it for you to obey someone in authority over you? Why?
3. How much time and energy do you think it takes for fathers to do what Paul urges? How does this affect the father's investment in his career or his other interests?
4. In what specific ways can you produce harmony with other Christians this week?

NOTES



“Exercising Power & Authority the
Jesus Way”

Ephesians 6:1 – 9

John Aldax - Sierra Community Church

April 7th, 2024

Ephesians 6:1 – 9 – ¹ 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 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

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

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

In Chapter 1 = Paul reveals God's will for his creation . . .

verses 9 & 10: ⁹ God has now revealed to us his mysterious will regarding Christ—which is to **fulfill his own good plan**. ¹⁰ And **this is the plan**: At the right time he will **bring everything together under the authority of Christ**—everything in heaven and on earth. (NLT)

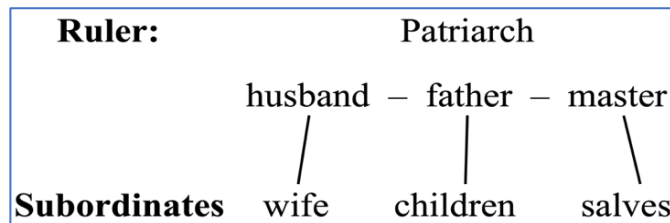
In Chapter 2, he's created a **new community** to be the vehicle through which he's going to accomplish this: the **CHURCH** . . . a new **multi-racial, multi-cultural community**.

In Chapter 3, he reveals that God is doing this new thing by destroying the things that divided humanity **ethnically & racially**.

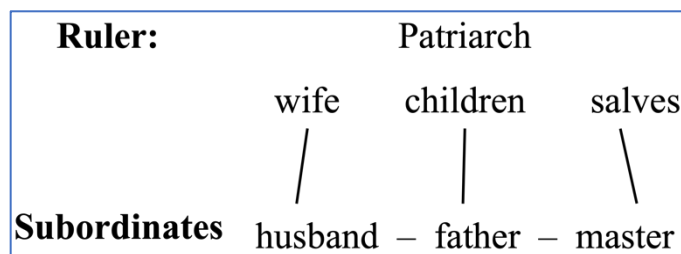
In Chapters 4 & 5 he tells us that God has provided everything we need to accomplish his mission of bringing “everything together under the authority of Christ—everything in heaven and on earth.”

In Chapter 5:21—6:9 he addresses the *cultural barriers* that divide us: “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

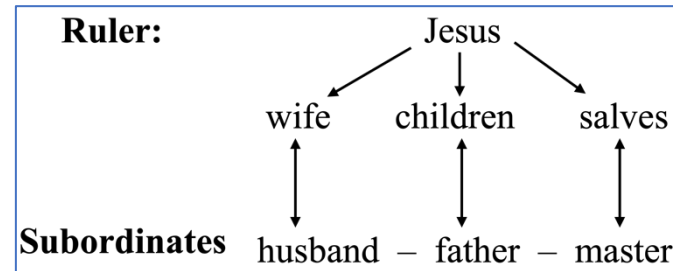
	main verb
5:18	And <i>don't be drunk with wine</i> , in which is debauchery; but be being filled by the Spirit,
subordinate clauses	5:19 speaking to each other in psalms, hymns, and spiritual poems, making music and singing in your hearts to the Lord, 5:20 giving thanks always to God the Farther for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ 5:21 submitting to one another in reverence of Christ,
	5:22 <i>wives to their husbands</i> 5:25 <i>husbands, love your wives,</i> 6:1 <i>children, obey your parents,</i> 6:4 <i>parents, nurture your children</i> 6:5 <i>slaves, obey your masters</i> 6:9 <i>masters, treat your slaves with dignity</i>
	subordinate to “submitting” to one another



Paul *flips the household structure*. Instead of addressing the Patriarch (husband, father, master) first, he addresses the wife, child, and servant first.



The husband/father/master is no longer the patriarch . . . *Jesus is*, and the “head of the household” is subject to him just like every other member of the household is.



“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.”

Wives submit to their husbands as they do *to the Lord* by respecting him and deferring to his responsibility as the head of the household. (5:22)

Husbands love their wives, *just as Christ* loved the church by giving themselves to meet her needs. (5:25)

Children submit to their father/parents by obeying and honoring them in the same way they honor *the Lord*. (6:1)

Fathers submit to their children by not exasperating them; instead nurturing and instructing them in the ways *of the Lord*. (6:4)

Employees submit to their earthly bosses by serving them wholeheartedly and obeying just as you would *obey & serve Christ*. (6:5)

Bosses submit to their employees by not being harsh with them and by recognizing their value to God and the value of the contributions they make and by treating them *with dignity and respect* because you have a *Master in heaven*. (6:9)

TAKE AWAY

“Never forget: the world doesn’t watch our behavior at church on Sundays or in Bible studies on weeknights. They watch us at home. They see us at work. They notice how we treat our parents. They pay attention to how we raise our children. They notice when we labor at our occupations with integrity. And they appreciate the qualities of a thoughtful, fair, and generous boss. In all these realms – marriage, family, and work – we are to be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” (Chuck Swindoll, *Living Insights New Testament Commentary*. P.296)

Let’s show the world around us what it looks like to *be being filled by the Spirit*.