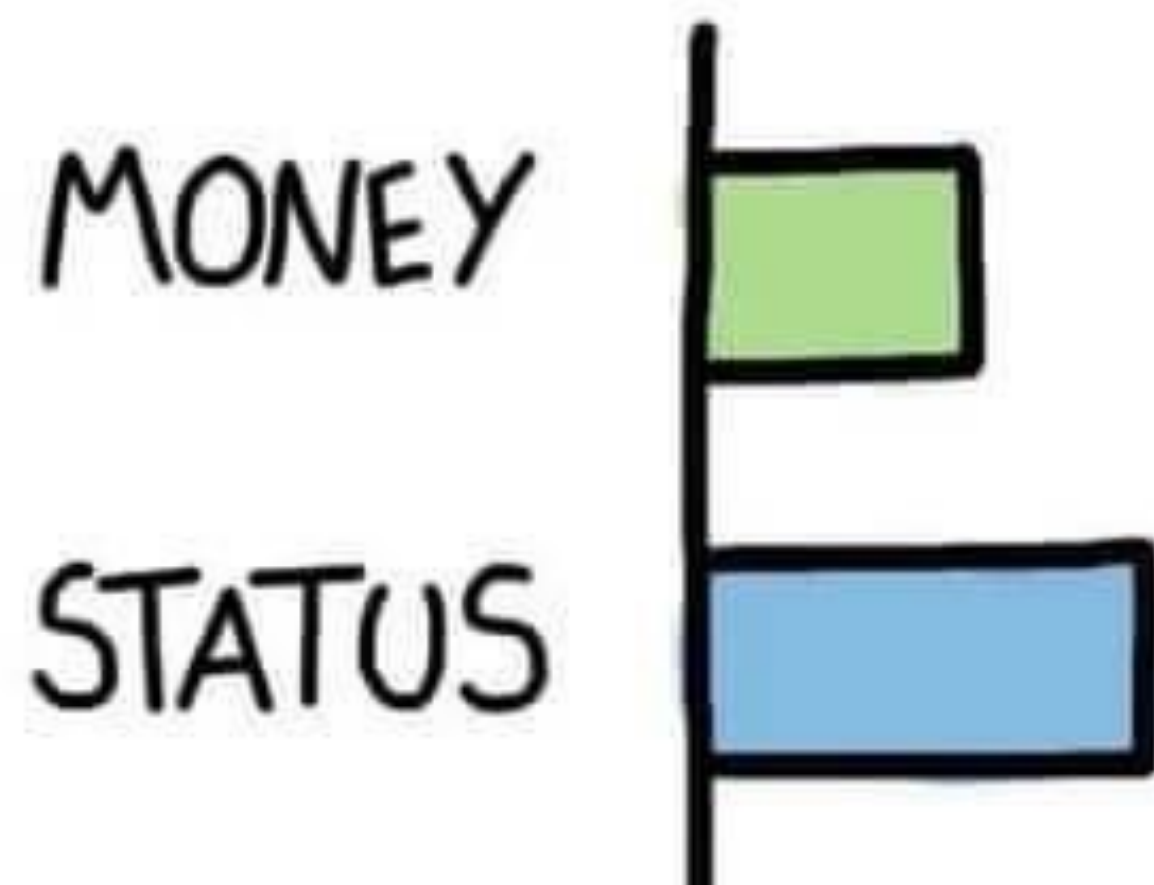


—PAUL'S LETTER TO THE—

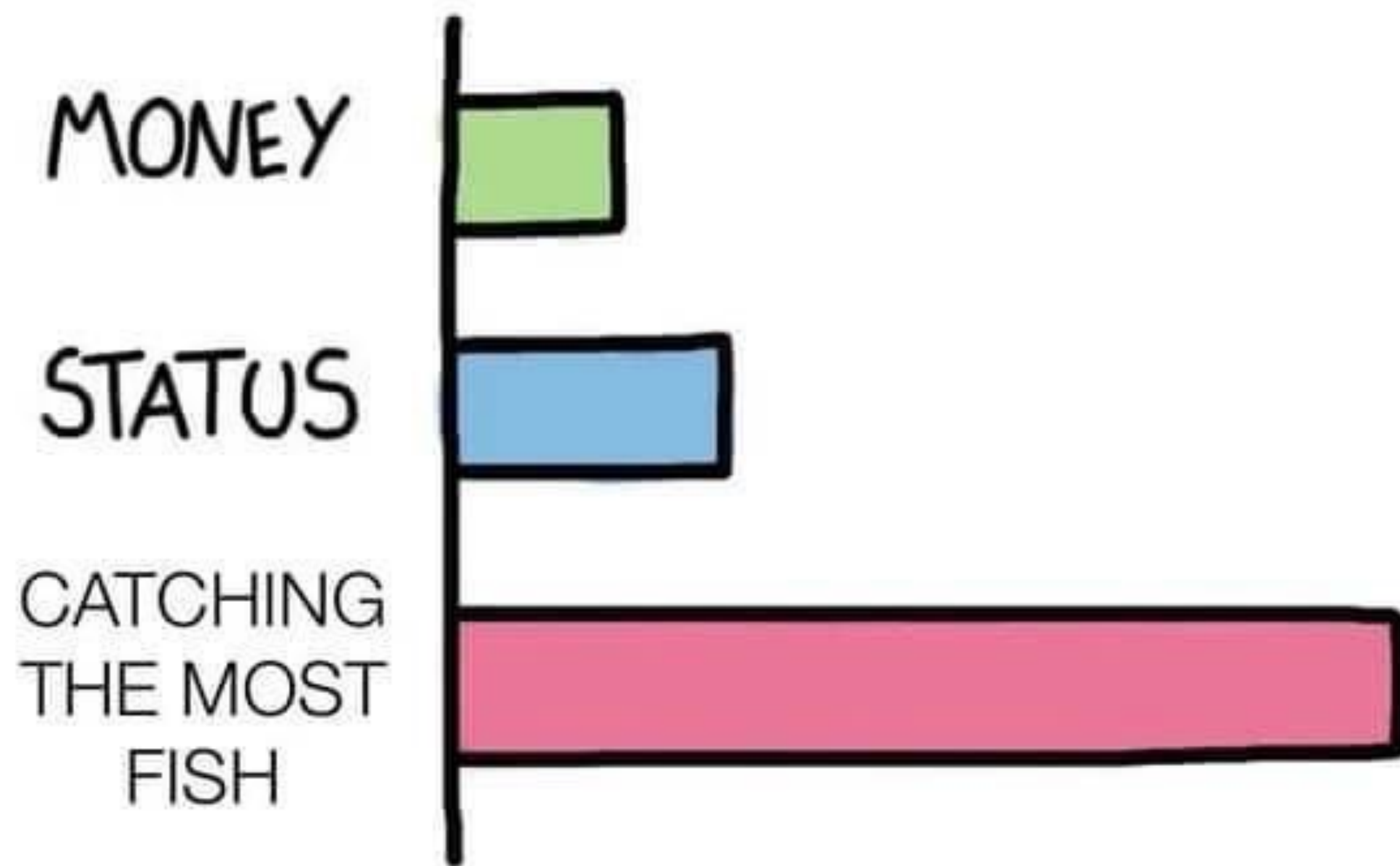
EPHESIANS

“Exercising Power &
Authority the Jesus Way” Ephesians 6:1—9

WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



WHAT GIVES PEOPLE FEELINGS OF POWER



²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.
²² Wives, to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies.

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

28 He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30 for we are members of his body. 31 “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

6:1 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.

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

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.

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

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.

Ephesians 5:21 — 6:9 NIV

main verb

5:18 And *don't be drunk with wine*, 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 Father for all things in the name of our Lord
Jesus Christ

5:21 submitting to one another in reverence of Christ,

5:22 *wives to their husbands*

5:25 *husbands, love your wives,*

6:1 *children, obey your parents,*

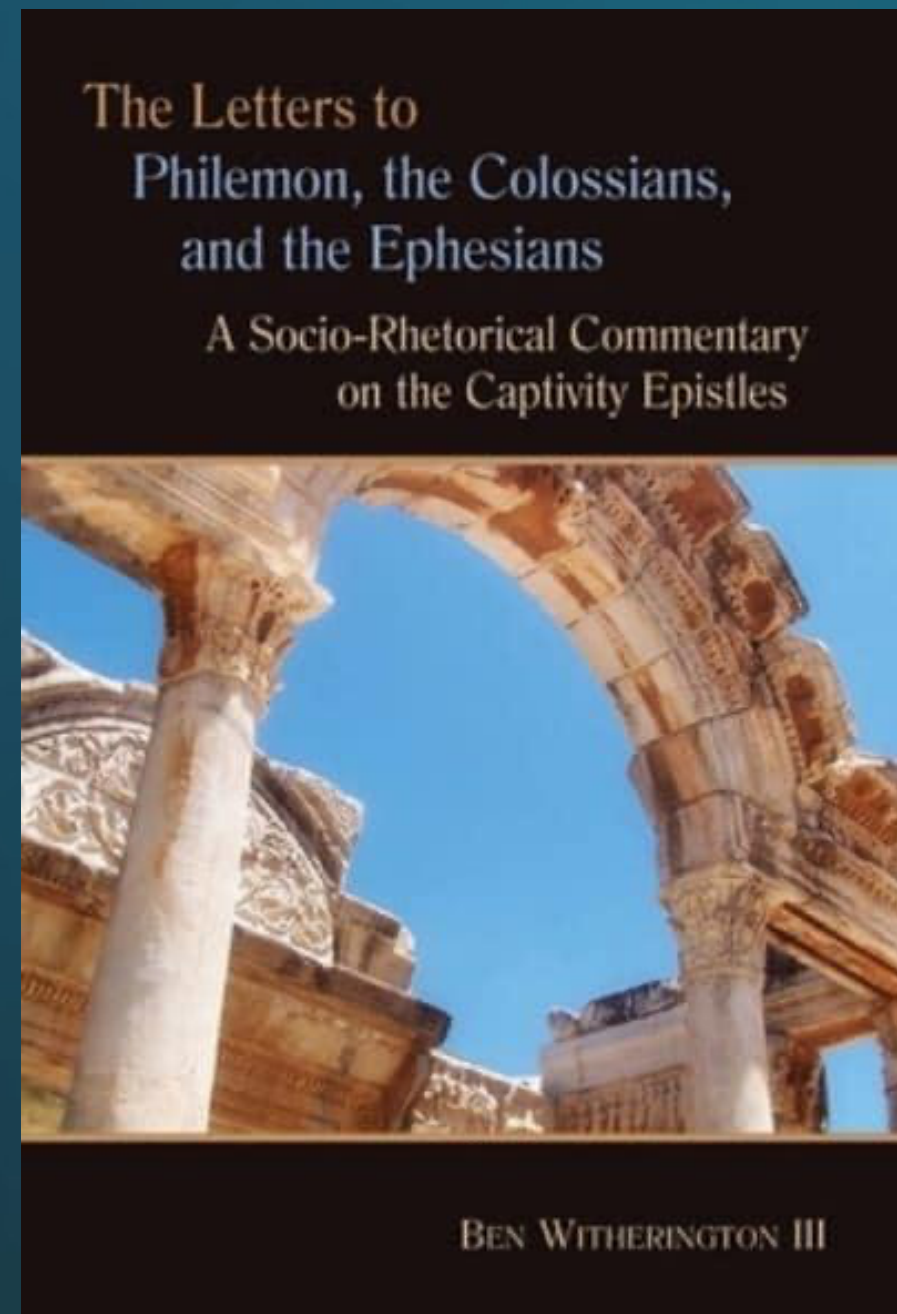
6:4 *parents, nurture your children*

6:5 *slaves, obey your masters*

6:9 *masters, treat your slaves with dignity*

subordinate to "submitting" to
one another

“Submission does not come naturally but it can and does happen when someone is filled with the Holy Spirit and is so led by God in his or her behavior.”



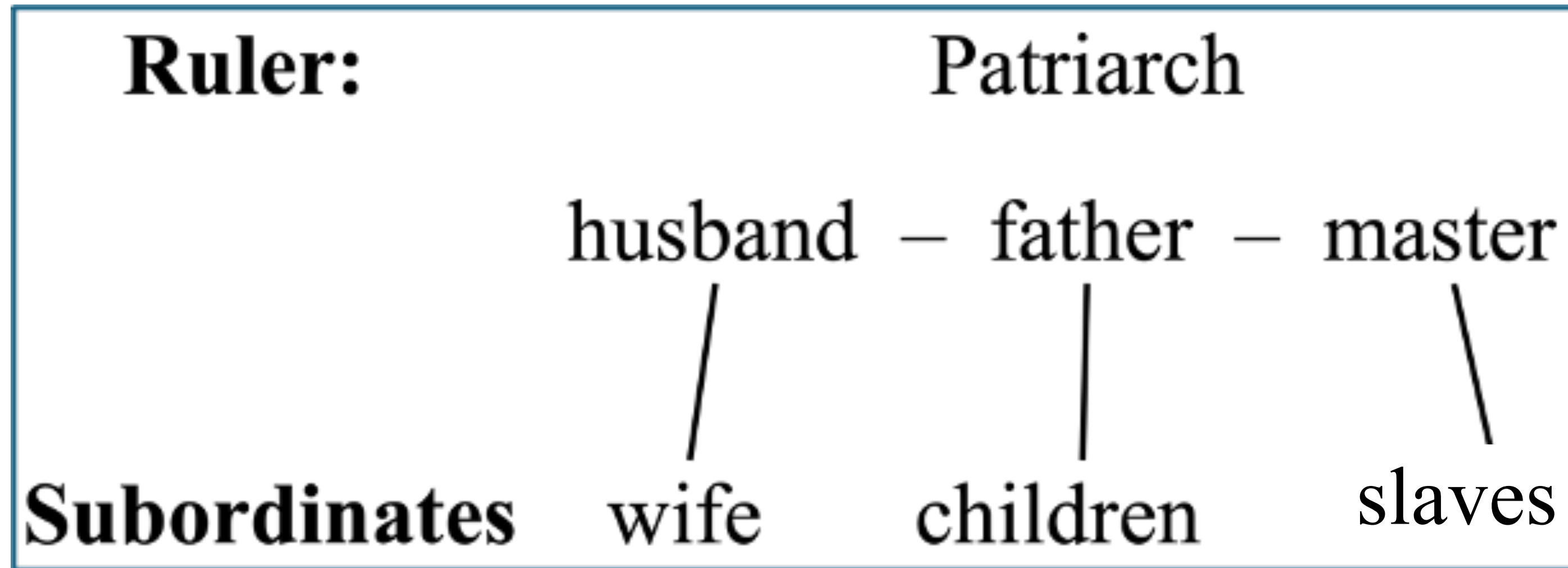
(Ben Witherington III, *The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians, a Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles*, p.319)

“Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9 fits the literary form of a well-known Greco-Roman tradition, where a patriarch is informed of his responsibility to order his household as a miniature Roman empire. The relationship always falls into a triad: husband-wife, father-child, master-slave”

Bible Project Classroom on Ephesians

“Nothing is better for society . . . than flourishing marriages and families . . . Without them, societies do not have a stable future.”

Breakpoint Daily, John Stonestreet, Colson Center, April 1, 2024

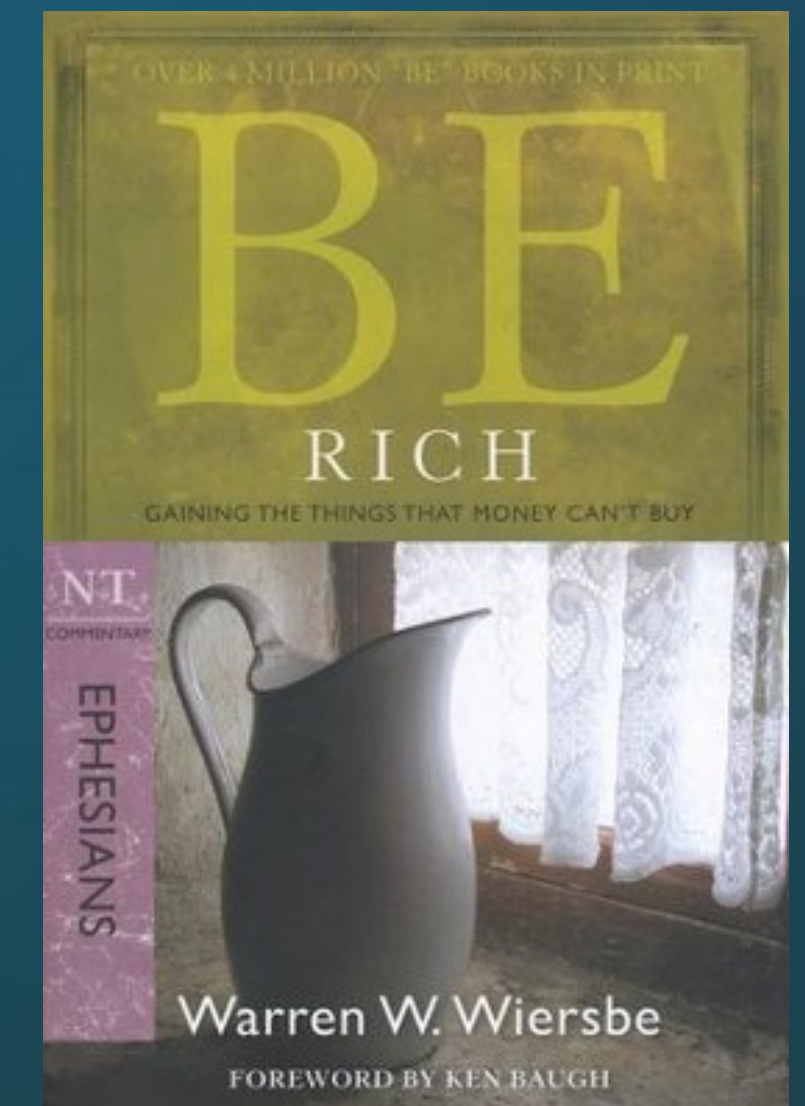


“He is to rule his slaves like a despot, his children like a king, and his wife treating her as a rational being but one without inherent authority.”

(Aristotle, in Ben Witherington III, *The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians, a Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles*, p.320)

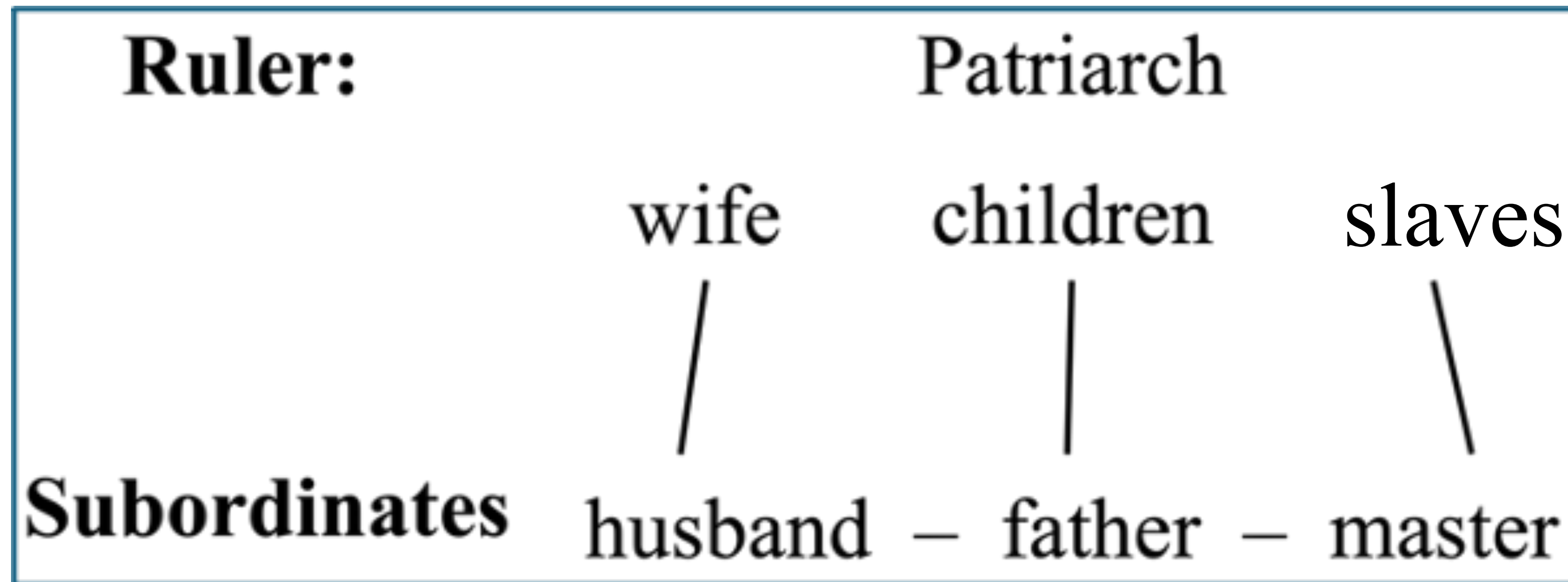
“In Paul’s day, the *father* had *supreme authority* over the family. When a baby was born into a Roman family, for example, it was brought out and laid before the father. If he picked it up, it meant he was accepting it into the home. But if he did not pick it up, it meant the child was rejected. It could be sold, given away, or even killed by exposure.”

(Warren Wiersbe, *Be Rich, Gaining Things Money Can’t Buy*, p. 164)



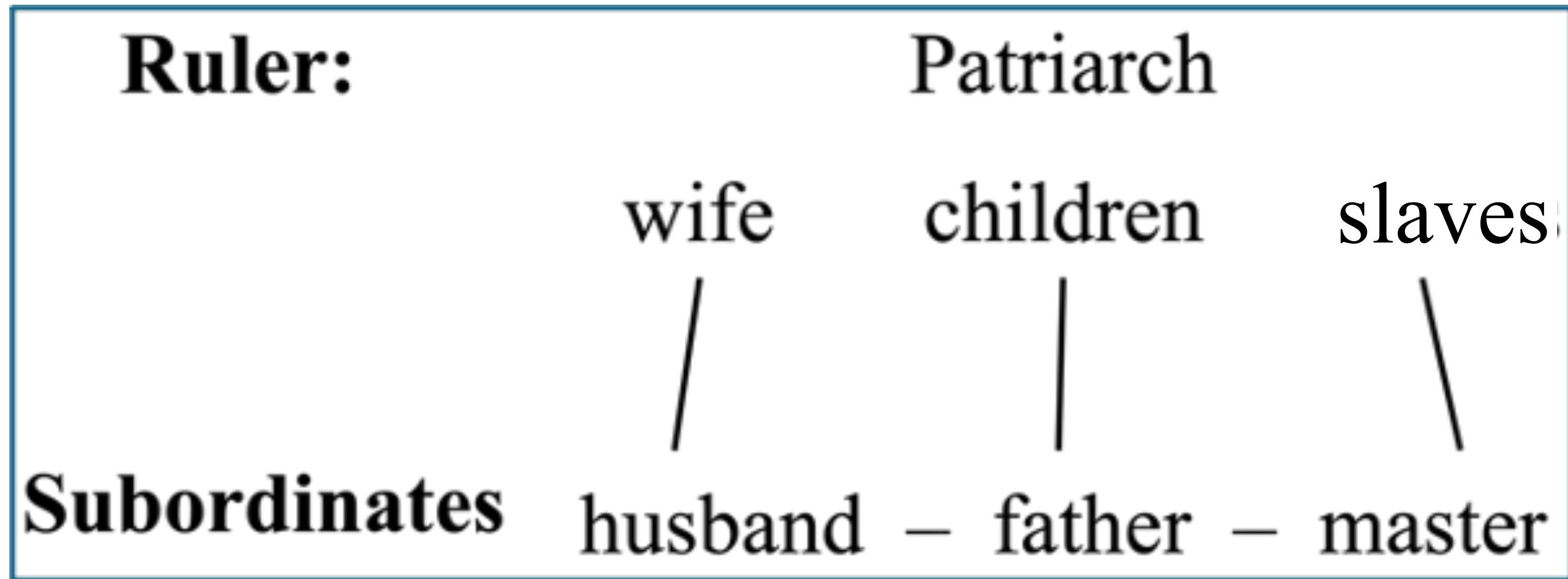
“Household code instructions were always addressed to the man alone, who ruled over his household that consisted of women, children, and slaves that were ‘by nature’ inferior.”

(The Bible Project class on Ephesians)



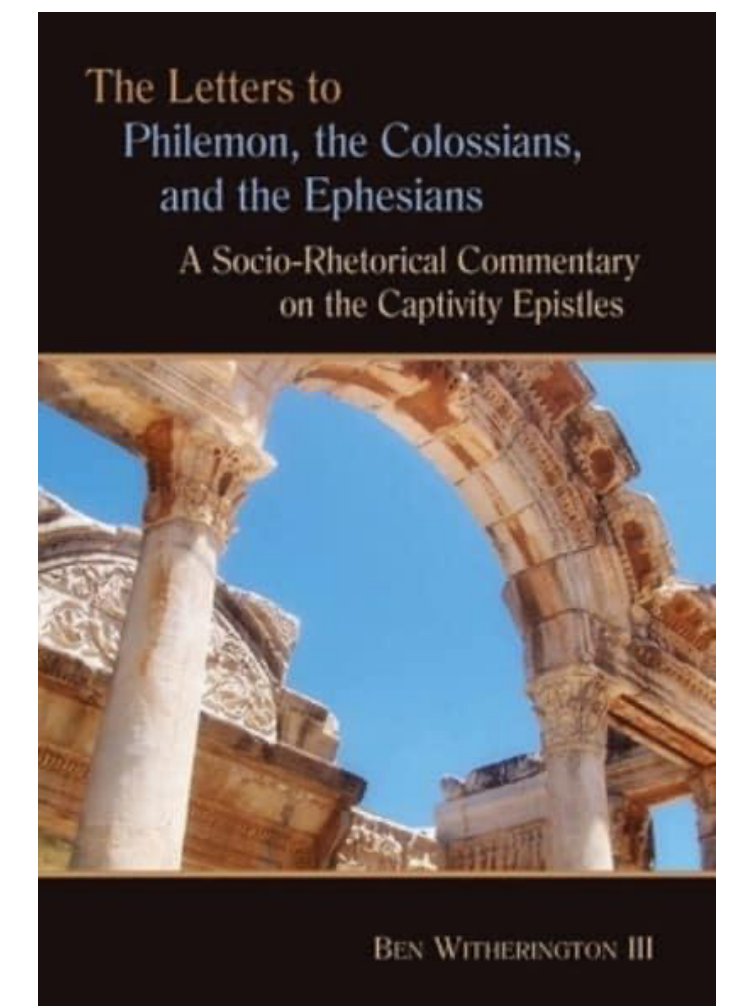
“ . . . status and authority were rigidly marked and strictly observed.”

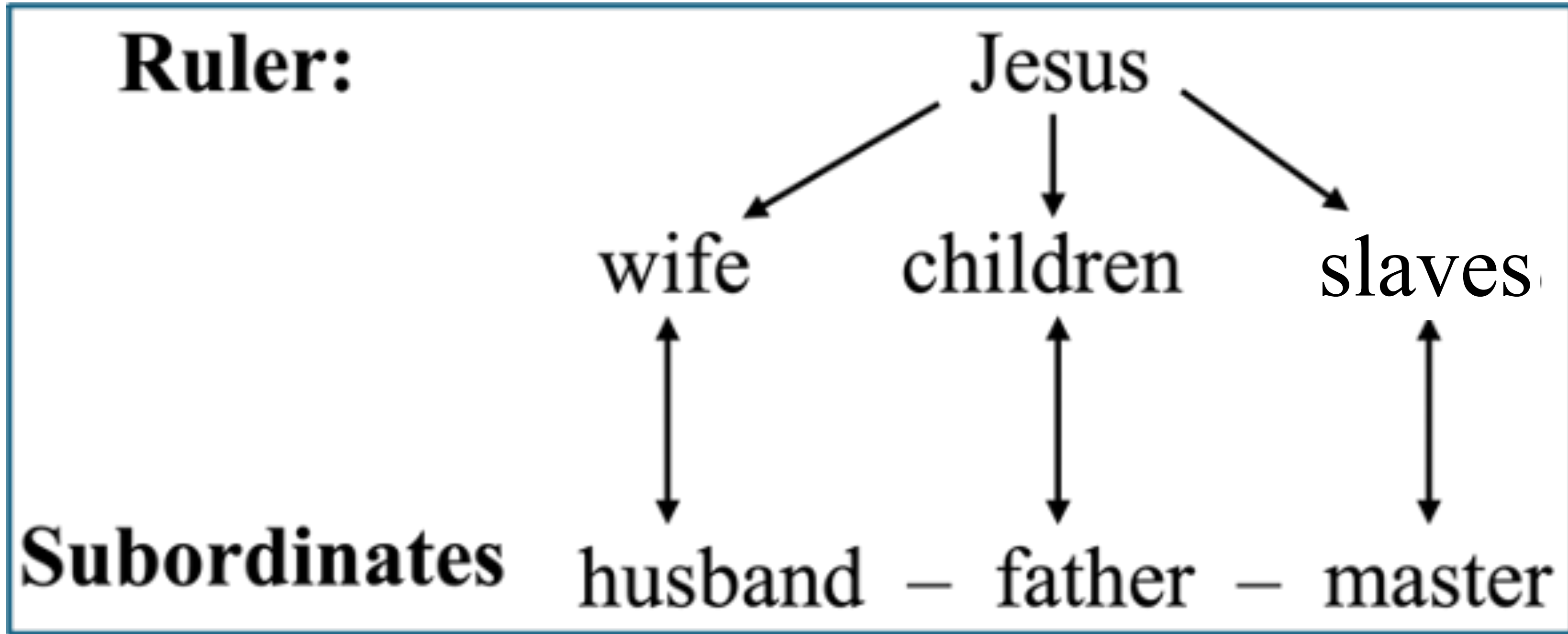
(Stephen E. Fowl, *Ephesians, a Commentary, the New Testament Library*, p.186 & 187)



“The Christian code is about everyone in the household and treats everyone as moral agents, even the children. *It’s not all about the head of the household anymore.*”

(Ben Witherington III, *The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians, a Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles*, p.320)





Everyone submits to Christ as the real authority of the household

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother . . .”

To obey is “to hear under authority” – to listen with attentiveness and respond positively to what is heard.



Then he went down to
Nazareth with them and
was *obedient to them*.

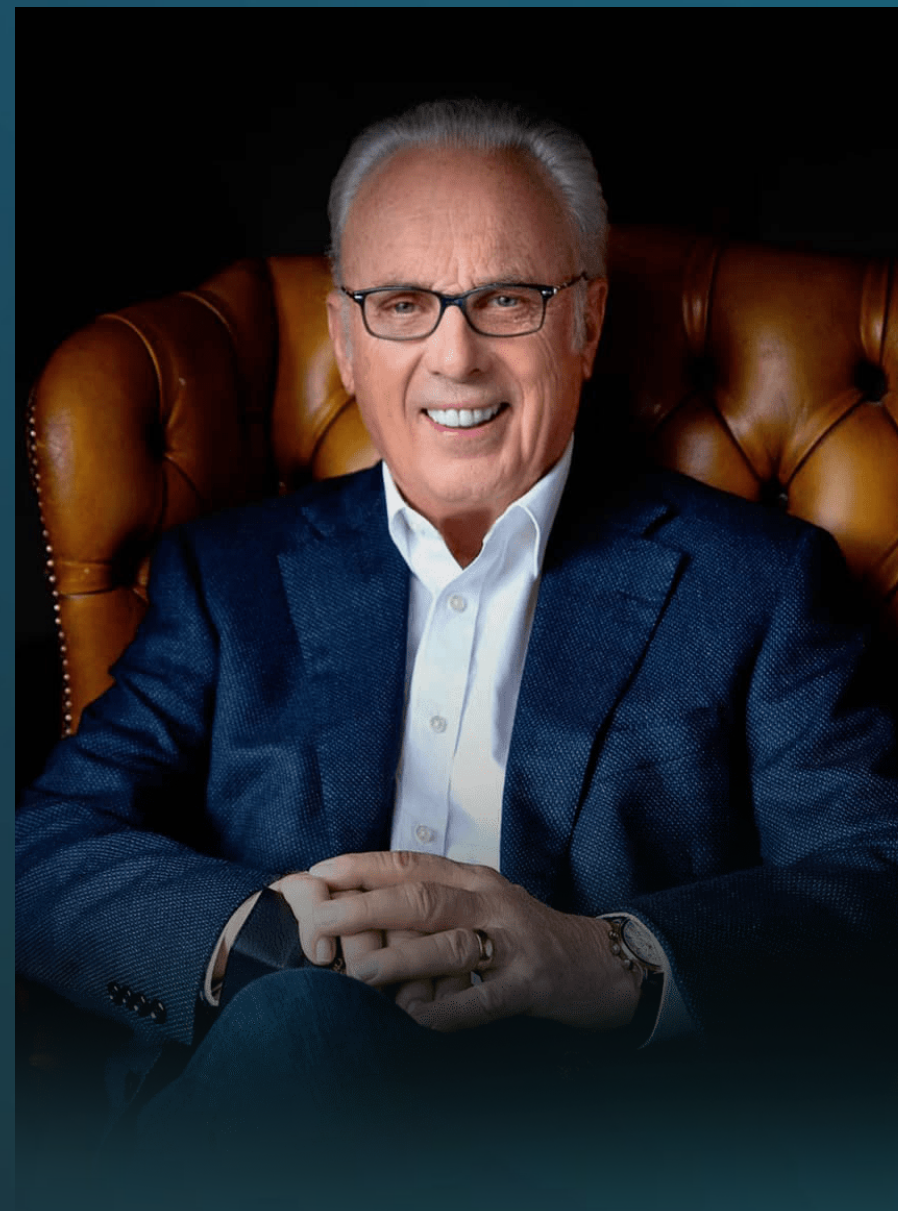
Luke 2:51

6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother . . .”

To obey is “to hear under authority” – to listen with attentiveness and respond positively to what is heard.

To honor your parents is to value them . . . to hold them in the highest regard and respect.

“A person who grows up with a sense of respect for and obedience to his parents will have the foundation for respecting the authority of other leaders and the rights of other people in general.”



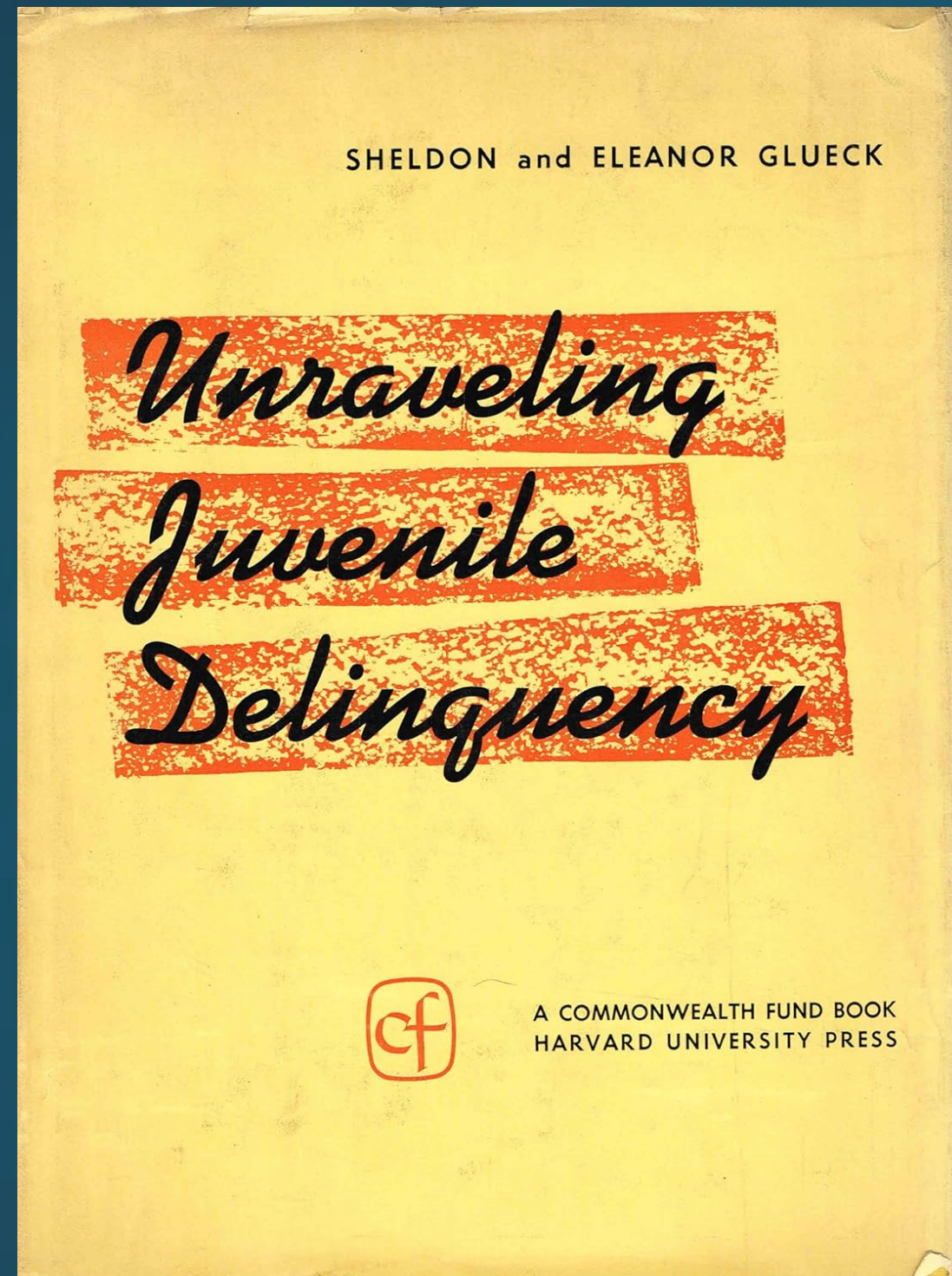
(John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Commentary, Ephesians*, p 312)

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To obey is “to hear under authority” – to listen with attentiveness and respond positively to what is heard.

To honor your parents is to value them . . . to hold them in the highest regard and respect.

Live long – Following the direction of your parents can help you avoid all sorts of destructive behaviors and serious consequences.



1. Fathers who are firm, fair, and consistent in their discipline
2. The mother's supervision and companionship during the day
3. Parents that demonstrate their affection for one another and their children
4. Time spent together (as a family) in activities where everyone participated.

Fathers do not provoke your children to anger . . . or exasperate them . . . create a deep-seated anger and resentment in them

Bring them up = nurture/nourish – Provide for their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health with tender care

“Means providing proper, balanced, loving discipline when the child goes astray . . . and it means instructing the child positively in the right way. Speaking of which, a good sense of humor can add great joy in the home. Happiness is often a sign of healthy relationships. Wise are those parents who bring laughter and fun into their family work projects, mealtime discussions, and everyday conversations!”



(Swindoll's Living Insights, a New Testament Commentary Galatians - Ephesians, Chuck Swindoll, p 292)

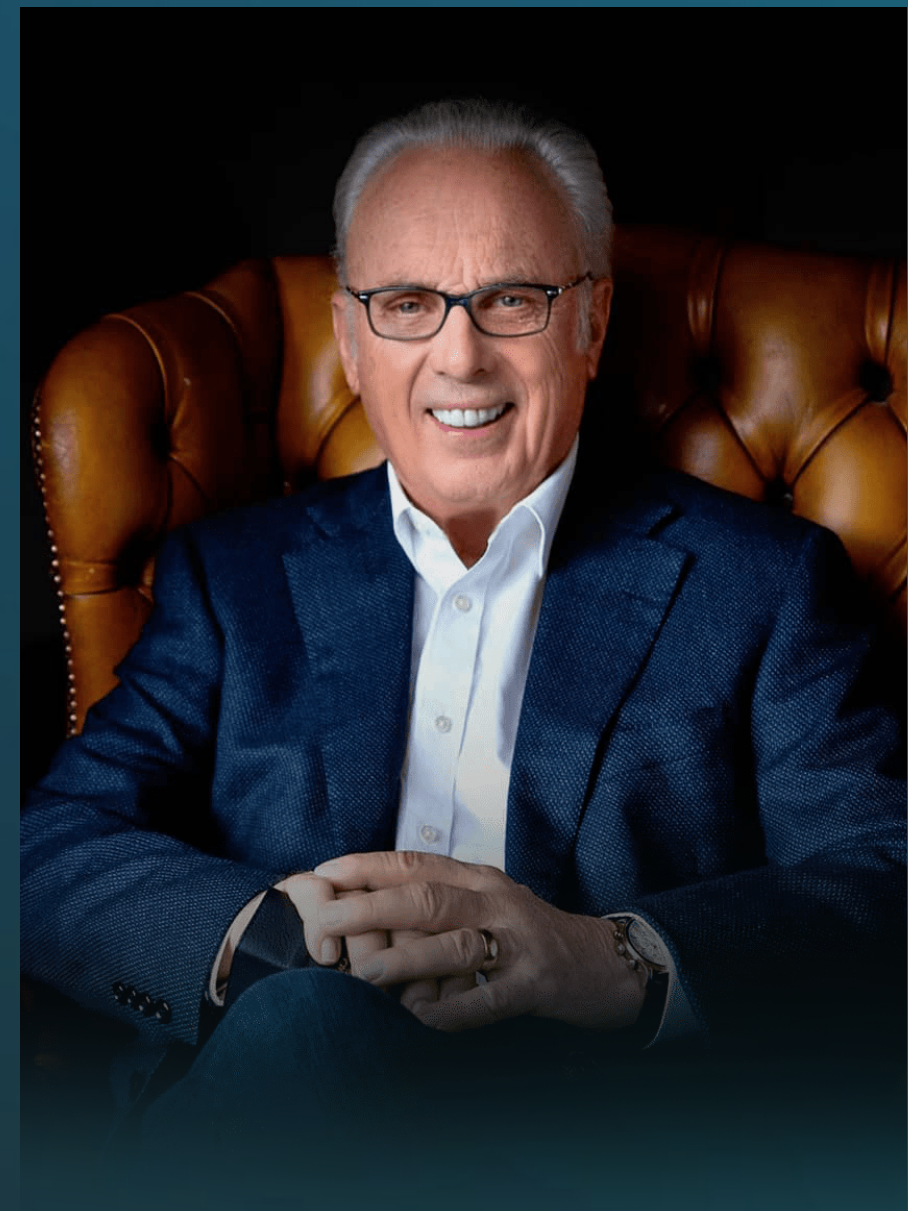
Fathers do not provoke your children to anger . . . or exasperate them . . . create a deep-seated anger and resentment in them

Bring them up = nurture/nourish – Provide for their physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual health with tender care

Training = lit. child training, education, discipline.

Instruction = Admonition. Training by words.

“The world today has much to say about children’s so-called rights. But the emphasis should be on their responsibilities. Emphasis on rights—whether by children or adults—weakens and destroys relationships on every level.



It is the sense of responsibility that builds right relationships as well as right character.”

(John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Commentary, Ephesians*, p 314)

Slaves & Masters

“In every aspect of human life God’s plan is one of authority and submission, and those two pillars are the bedrock of biblical labor relations. To avoid chaos and anarchy, someone must lead, and others must follow. The mutual submission Paul teaches in relation to masters and servants, just as that between husbands and wives and parents and children, is in the context of the God-designated roles of authority . . .

(John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Commentary, Ephesians*, p 322)

Slaves & Masters

But that authority is not based on inherent superiority They possess their authority as a stewardship from God, to be used for His purposes and according to His principles. Their authority is not total or unrestricted and it is to be used only to serve God and to serve those over whom they have been given the authority. Submission, therefore, is not one-way but mutual.”

(John MacArthur, *The MacArthur Commentary, Ephesians*, p 322)

Slaves & Masters

“... Christ is lord of all, and every action in the master/slave relationship should be done with the connection of both parties to Christ fully in mind. The slave’s service is ultimately to the Lord, and the master’s supervision is to be done with full cognizance that he is accountable to the Lord for what he says and does. In other words, the slave’s actions cease to be mere servitude to a human master, and the master’s actions cease to be those of one who has absolute authority over another human being.”

(Ben Witherington III, *The Letters to Philemon, the Colossians, and the Ephesians, a Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on the Captivity Epistles*, p.339)

¹⁰ I appeal to you to show kindness to my child, Onesimus. I became his father in the faith while here in prison. ¹¹ Onesimus hasn't been of much use to you in the past, but now he is very useful to both of us. ¹² I am sending him back to you, and with him comes my own heart.

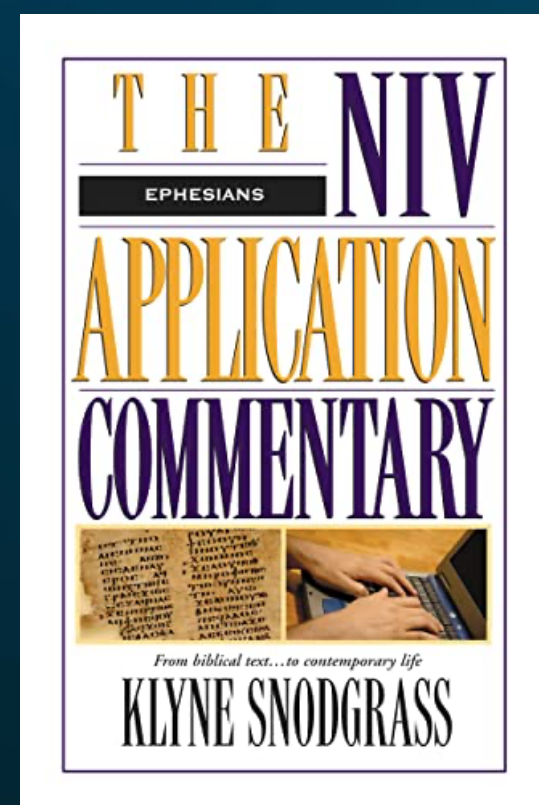
¹³ I wanted to keep him here with me while I am in these chains for preaching the Good News, and he would have helped me on your behalf.

Philemon 10 - 16 NLT

¹⁴ But I didn't want to do anything without your consent. I wanted you to help because you were willing, not because you were forced. ¹⁵ It seems you lost Onesimus for a little while so that you could have him back forever. ¹⁶ He is no longer like a slave to you. He is more than a slave, for he is a beloved brother, especially to me. Now he will mean much more to you, both as a man and as a brother in the Lord.

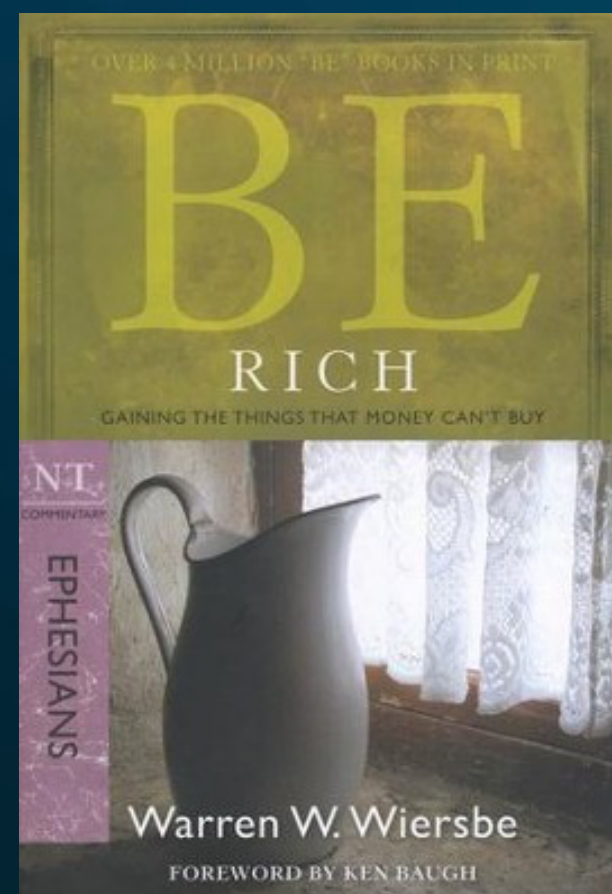
Philemon 10 - 16 NLT

“Our jobs and our role in the culture do not determine who we are. We live in , to, and for Christ in all we do. Moreover, our value, and identity do not derive from our circumstances, but from Christ. By directing all our actions to Christ, all of life—even the most mundane parts—is elevated to meaning and service to God . . . No job is merely work; it is a context for serving Christ.”



(The NIV Application Commentary, Ephesians, Klyne Snodgrass, p.328 & 331)

“Submission has nothing to do with the *order of authority*, but rather governs the *operation of authority*, how it is given and how it is received . . . The greatest is the person who uses his authority to build people up and not to build up his authority and make himself important.”



(Warren Wiersbe, Be Rich, Gaining Things Money Can't Buy, p. 152)

“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.”

(Swindoll’s Living Insights, a New Testament Commentary Galatians - Ephesians, Chuck Swindoll, p 296)



