



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



# The Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians

## Chapter 6

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# Introduction

- St. Paul explained how Christians should walk in unity, purity, love, light, and wisdom
- As an application, he explained the responsibilities, wives and husbands have toward each other
- In this chapter he will explain the responsibilities of children, parents, servants, and masters
- After that he encourages the believers to walk in might and to put on the whole armor of God
- He will conclude this letter with his benediction



# Children and Parents (6:1-4)

- Children are called to:
  - ❖ Obey their parents in the Lord
  - ❖ Honor them
- Because:
  - ❖ This is right: pleases the Lord (Col 3:20)
  - ❖ This is a commandment
  - ❖ There is a special blessing

# Children and Parents (6:1-4)



- The blessings:
  - ❖ To be well with them
  - ❖ Live long on earth (blessed days).
- Parents are called to:
  - ❖ Not provoke their children to wrath (style of parenting)
  - ❖ Bring them up in:
    - ❑ Training (active)
    - ❑ Admonition of the Lord (Discipline)



# Servants and Masters (6:5-9)

- Christianity and slavery
  - ❖ Does not approve or encourage it
  - ❖ But if it exists how to deal with it
- Servants are called to:
  - ❖ Obey their masters (in the flesh - because their real master is the Lord), with:
    - ❑ Fear and trembling (honor and reverence)
    - ❑ Sincerity of heart as to Christ (love)
    - ❑ Not with eye service (men pleasers)



# Servants and Masters (6:5-9)

- ❖ As bondservants of Christ, do the will of God
  - ❑ from the heart
  - ❑ With goodwill
  - ❑ As to the Lord not to men
- The blessings:
  - ❖ You will receive the same from the Lord.
- Masters are called to:
  - ❖ Treat them the same (love, respect, honor, and fear of God)
  - ❖ Not threaten them
    - ❑ You have a heavenly Master (you are servants too)
    - ❑ No partiality with God between a slave or free





# Walk in Might (6:10–13)

- Our strength comes only from God's power and might
- We are called to walk in power because:
  - ❖ We are in war (wrestling) with the devil (powerful enemy)
    - ❑ Not human being (so we need divine power)
    - ❑ Principalities and powers (fallen angels)
    - ❑ The rulers of the darkness of this age (using the world to attack us)
    - ❑ Spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places (experts in evil)



# Walk in Might (6:10–13)

- ❖ To be able to stand the wiles of Satan (deceit)
- ❖ To withstand in the evil day (dying hour – day of trial)
- ❖ To stand (to be victorious to the end)
- How to be mighty in the Lord and be able to stand?
  - ❖ Putting on the whole armor of God (6:11,13)
  - ❖ Praying always
  - ❖ Watchfulness





# The Armor of God (6:14-20)

- Having only parts of the armor and not the whole armor will endanger your life
- Your waist girded with truth
  - ❖ The truth keeps your armor together
  - ❖ It also holds the offensive weapon (the sword - the Word of God)
  - ❖ The appropriate way to use the Word of God is to present it as absolute truth



# The Armor of God (6:14-20)

- The breastplate of righteousness
  - ❖ Righteousness as grace and as behavior
  - ❖ Our heart will not condemn us when we practice righteousness (1 John 3:22)
- Feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace
  - ❖ Preach the good news of the gospel (evangelism)
  - ❖ Be a peacemaker



# The Armor of God (6:14-20)

- The shield of faith above all, to quench the fiery darts of the wicked one
  - ❖ The war of doubts
- The helmet of salvation
  - ❖ Knowing that we are saved from the wrath of God gives us peace of mind in the midst of the battle



# The Armor of God (6:14-20)

- The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.
  - ❖ The word of God is the tool of the Holy Spirit in our life
  - ❖ It can be an offensive or defensive weapon
- Praying:
  - ❖ Always in every season
  - ❖ With all prayers and supplication (for myself and the believers)
  - ❖ As the Spirit of God guide us (according to His will)



# The Armor of God (6:14-20)

- Watchfulness:
  - ❖ To this end (to the prayers and supplications and to the wrestling of the devil)
  - ❖ With all perseverance (constancy)
- Praying for St. Paul (our clergy)
  - ❖ That utterance may be given to him (we preach what God gives us not what we want to say)
  - ❖ That he might speak boldly (without fear)



# The Armor of God (6:14-20)

- ❖ As he ought to speak (God's will)
- ❖ To make known the mystery of the gospel (the goal of preaching)
- The priest is an ambassador of God and the gospel
- We accept suffering for God gladly
- The chains should not chain the word of God





# Final Greeting (6:21-24)

- As father he wants to let them know his affairs to comfort their hearts
- So he is sending Tychicus, a beloved brother and faithful minister in the Lord
- The importance of communication and reporting between the father and the children



# Final Greeting (6:21-24)

- Final prayer for his children:
  - ❖ Peace
  - ❖ Love
  - ❖ Faith (strength in their faith), from God the Father and the Lord Jesus
  - ❖ Grace
- Only those who love our Lord Jesus in sincerity will enjoy these blessings



# Conclusion

- What are the duties of the children? Why?
- What are the duties of the parents?
- What are the duties of the servants?
- What are the duties of the masters?



# Conclusion

- Does Christianity encourage slavery? Why the commandments to obey the masters?
- Why and how to walk in might?
- What are the six pieces of the armor of God?
- What should we pray for, for our clergy?