



Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States



The Epistle of St. Paul to the Ephesians

Chapter 6

Bishop Youssef

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 in 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?