

# Christ in Our Daily Life

## Քրիստոս Ամէնօրեայ Կեանքին Մէջ

### Ephesians 6:1-9

What roles do you have at this time in your life?

Husband, Wife, Daughter, Son, Father, Mother, Grandfather, Grandmother, Uncle, Auntie, Boss, Employee-worker, School teacher, Sunday school teacher, Student, Secretary, Farmer, Housewife, Manager, Sound Engineer, Musician, Cook, Caretaker, Custodian, Bible Study leader... etc....

-Do you see where am I going with this illustration?

-Paul is writing to the church of Ephesus. In this section chapters 4,5,6, he is guiding the new established family, community, Jews and Gentiles, how to walk in love.

What does it mean to become a new family in Christ?

What does it mean to be In, by, and With His Grace?

How do we apply the Christian life in daily life? Husband, wife, parent, child, boss employee...

-The Romans were in charge of the communities. There was something called **Pax Romana**, a 200-year period of peace and economic prosperity throughout the Empire; they did not like to see any changes in the communities. They controlled all over the empire. Please notice, the message of Jesus was radical; yet Christianity was not a revolutionary, militant movement. There was a new community of love, equality, dignity of human beings, a new community which gave a new meaning to marriage, a special place for kids, workers, Bondservants. **Christianity reshaped the thinking and the behavior of individuals from the inside.** The hearts of people were changed. they submitted in love, voluntarily, not by force. Because their allegiance was to Jesus Christ, their Lord and Savior.

Chapter 6 continues describe how the household should glorify GOD. It means the children, and the servants, workers. The father was the head of the household. In the Roman society they had an absolute power, and they sometimes did not treat the household kindly.

Let us read:

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.** <sup>2</sup>“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” <sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Ephesians 6:1-4 ESV)

### **-The role of the Children in the household.**

Let me start with Jesus.

**“Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God.** (Mark 10:14 ESV)

**“Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me.”** (Mat 18:5 ESV)

Jesus treated children with dignity. Children in that time were nobody.

Now what is Paul saying,

**Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

In 5:21 we learned to submit to each other. Here Paul uses another verb: OBEY. **obedience**. It is stronger than submission.

Children in that culture already knew that they should obey their parents.

“All civilizations have regarded the recognition of parental authority as essential for a stable society.”<sup>1</sup>

What is new here?

**The Lord**, Jesus is the center of this command. The same was between husbands and wives.

Paul quotes from Deuteronomy 5:16 **“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),** <sup>3</sup>“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”

It is **the Fifth commandment** from 10 commandments.

Respect, honor, and obedience, because they are the God given authority.

God commanded to Moses:

**“Be holy because I, the Lord your God, am holy.**

<sup>3</sup>**“Each of you must respect your mother and father, ... I am the Lord your God.”** (Lev 19:1-3 NIV)

Obedience to God is the center,

Because you love Jesus, you submit, you obey, you honor.

Warning, when children are under 18, which means they are not adults, they should obey their fathers and mothers, even if the father is not a Christian. (not talking about abusive cases).

If they are above 18, they should obey and honor our parents. But if the parents become an obstacle to worship God, our first allegiance is to our heavenly Father, our God.

**Illustration:** there was a young person in Aleppo, who became a Christian. We wanted to take that person to the summer camp. The father was not Christian and did not allow. The person obeyed the father. I was upset from the father, but also surprised my friend's obedience. These days that person is pastor, and theology teacher. That obedience was important part of becoming holy.

### **-Fathers (parents):**

**<sup>4</sup>Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**

Do not provoke: Here are some ways when we provoke them <sup>2</sup>

Overprotection

Favoritism or Neglect

Depreciating their worth/Criticism/ Discouragement

Over-pushing achievement, Setting unrealistic goals

Failing to show affection/ Making them feel unwanted

Not providing for their needs

Excessive Discipline

Physical and verbal abuse

### **BUT**

**but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.**

The verb "bring them up" is same word "nourish".

In chapter five husbands were said to "**nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church...**"

So men, husbands, and fathers, you had an important role to "nourish" your household. In the Roman society this was very odd.

-Christ transforms us from within. IN, BY WITH HIS GRACE.

Parents, fathers, you have a major role **not to provoke** your kids, but to **nourish them**.

Help them to come closer to Jesus. (Discipleship)

**Discipline them and instruct them so they come closer to the LORD.**

-Kevin and I urge you fathers and parents to bring your Children to the youth ministry. Take this ministry very seriously. PLEASE, put on your schedule as priority. This is the best thing you can do to raise your child. You will equip your

child's future, it will affect his/her personality, his/her relationship with friends, his/her education, his/her goals, his/her purpose in life.

### **-Workplace instructions**

**Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, <sup>6</sup> not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, <sup>7</sup> rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, <sup>8</sup> knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. <sup>9</sup> Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (Eph 6:5-9 ESV)**

**-Bondservants** is a good translation of the word. Some translate, slaves. Let me explain that slaves those days, or as ESV translates, bondservants are not like historically slavery in the US. Bondservants had a way to pay their wage and become free for example.

Overall, Slavery is not good, buying and selling people is wrong.

-Why did Paul not abolish slavery?

As I mentioned before, Christianity did not try to reform cultural structures.

Instead, they gave instructions how to follow Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.

-Paul is commanding to new way of living within the society that had bondservants in it already. There is a complete letter about Onesimus to accept his slave servant as a brother in Christ.

- The Word of God also is a great book which transform people's lives. Obeying the Word of God will change gradually people's hearts; they will be transformed to be Christ-like-persons, which means this will affect the society from within. It will be positive transformation of the society. The transformation will be from the inside out.

*-I wish the church did more to help the abolition of slavery sooner. Also, I believe the slavery was abolished by the Christian people who were transformed by the power of the Holy Spirit, for example people like Dr Martin Luther King, who was a pastor. With a nonviolent walk, the society was finally awakened, and finally slavery was abolished.*

Now, I will read this within the context of workers and bosses.

I asked you where your role in the society is. Each of us has a role.

**We are called to be disciples of Jesus.**

Chapter 5:21 submitting to each other and to Christ is a good foundation to be disciple of Jesus...

That is a good sign of being disciple of Jesus.

We find here same dynamic as marriage and parenting. **Christ is the center** of everything. Between the two parts, husband and wife, Parents and children, Workers and Bosses, the third person in that relationship is CHRIST.

Let us take some phrases:

**with fear and trembling**

**eye-service**

**people-pleasers**

**sincere from the heart**

**rendering service with a good will**

-Paul says, work **“with fear and trembling”**; which means treat the other person with respect and humility.

-Paul say not to work for **“eye-service”**, not to be **“people-pleasers.”**

-Then he gives the answer to be **“sincere from the heart,”** the word sincere means simple. There is no hidden agenda. **“What you see is what you get.”**

Paul adds: **“rendering service with a good will”** again no hidden agenda, yet good attitude, good will, positive attitude in your work.

**“Respect, Honesty, Integrity, Simplicity, Enthusiasm. Engagement.”** <sup>3</sup>

Those can be found in any company handbook.

What is different in Paul’s commands?

**as you would [obey] Christ**

**but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God**

**as to the Lord and not to man**

**receive back from the Lord**

**their Master and yours**

The Christ-centeredness of this instructions are very striking. The **Bondservants** perspective has changed. Their horizons have broadened. They have been liberated from the slavery of ‘people pleasing’ into freedom of serving Christ. Their

mundane tasks have been absorbed into higher concern, namely the will of God and the good pleasure of Christ.<sup>4</sup> In summary their work is for the LORD.

### **-Bosses, Masters, CEO**

**<sup>9</sup> Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him. (Eph 6:9 ESV)**

1. Do the same way, treat them with respect. Golden rule.
2. Stop threatening them, don't misuse your position.
3. Jesus Christ is master for you and for your workers, no partiality.

### **Application**

These commandments that Paul wrote (5:21-6:9) in this letter for, married couples, children and parents, masters and bondservants, workers and bosses, are great instructions about how-to walk-in love. Each of us has a role in the society. This is an excellent call how to **be a disciple of Jesus**. We are called to be His disciples.

Here are practical commandments to be disciple of Jesus.

We need humility, to become disciples; we need humility to submit our hearts and minds, we need humility to love and obey, we need humility to surrender to Jesus.

Amen

1. John R.W. Stott, *The Bible Speaks Today, The Message of Ephesians*, P 186
2. John McArthur, <https://www.gty.org/library/bibleqnas-library/QA0032/do-not-provoke-your-children>
3. Paul Taylor, REORIENTED TO CHRIST, SERIES: EPHESIANS: THE MYSTERY OF CHRIST. March 27, 2022
4. John R.W. Stott, *The Bible Speaks Today, The Message of Ephesians*, P 198