

Christlikeness in Relationships: part II  
Ephesians 5:23-6:9

*Marriage*  
*Family*  
*Work*

*Family*

Ephesians 6:1 Children, **obey your parents** in the Lord, for this is right.

Obey (hypakouō): listen under

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents **in the Lord**, for this is right.

All Christian duty is first unto the Lord.

Ephesians 6:1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is **right**.

Natural Law

Right (dikaios): conforming to law or custom

Divine Law

Ephesians 6:2 “**Honor** your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),

Honor (timaō): honor, show respect, give recognition, often implying action to show that honor

Exodus 20:12 “Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

Ephesians 6:3 “**that it may go well with you** and that you may live long in the land.”

Ephesians 6:4 **Fathers**, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Fathers (patēr): parents both father and mother

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not **provoke** your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Provoke (paragizō): make angry; exasperate

Colossians 3:21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

Well-meaning overprotection is a common cause of resentment in children.

Children who are incessantly told they can do whatever they wish and can have their own way are children who will soon mock their parents, teachers, moral standards, the law, and society in general.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1986. [Ephesians](#). MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press.

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the **discipline** and **instruction** of the Lord.

Discipline: (paideia): to provide instruction, with the intent of forming proper habits of behavior.

Instruction: (nouthesia): warning; admonition

Proverbs 19:18 Discipline your children, for in that there is hope; do not be a willing party to their death. (NIV)

Ephesians 6:4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction **of the Lord**.

Psalms 19:8 the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;

*Work*

Bondsman (doulos): slave

Ephesians 6:5-7 Bondsman, **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 bondsmen 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,

Fear and trembling (phobou kai tromou)

This does not suggest servile respect – shaking in your boots lest you make a wrong move, or an obsequious, fawning “Yes, sir! Double yes, sir! Whatever you say,

sir!” Rather, it suggests Christian reverence and respect for the master’s position and authority.

Hughes, R. Kent. 1990. [Ephesians: The Mystery of the Body of Christ](#). Preaching the Word. Wheaton, IL: Crossway Books.

Sincere (haplotēs): generosity; liberality

A good will (eunoia): zeal; eagerness

Ephesians 6:5-7 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,

All Christian duty is unto the Lord

Colossians 3:17 And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Ephesians 6:8 **knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord**, whether he is a bondservant or is free.

Revelation 22:12 **“Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense with me, to repay each one for what he has done.**

Ephesians 6:9 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.

Threatening (apeilē): declare harm to another

Ephesians 6:9 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.

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

Ephesians 6:9 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.

Partiality (prōsopolēmpsia): favoritism

Deuteronomy 10:17 For the LORD your God is God of gods and Lord of lords, the great, the mighty, and the awesome God, who is not **partial** and takes no bribe.

Ephesians 6:10–12 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might.  
<sup>11</sup> Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. <sup>12</sup> For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.