

THE CHURCH ON OFFENSE IN CONFLICTED DAYS

FALL/WINTER 2020/2021

“THE SPIRIT-FILLED FAMILY”

March 17, 2021

EPHESIANS 6:1-4 and other selected support Scriptures

I. PAUL'S PREPARATION OF THE EPHESIANS

- A. He held back nothing that was PROFITABLE v. 20*
- B. He testified that the gospel was about REPENTANCE TOWARD GOD and FAITH TOWARD THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. That means that they would have to change their mind about who the Sovereign One was and put their trust in the Son of the Sovereign One, the Lord Jesus Christ v. 27*
- C. He testified of the GOSPEL OF THE GRACE OF GOD v. 24*
- D. The main focus of his preaching was PROCLAIMING THE KINGDOM OF GOD. v.25*
- E. He declared to them the WHOLE COUNSEL (WILL, PURPOSE, INTENT, DESIRE) OF GOD.*

He trusted God with them, encouraging them to guard themselves against the FALSE TEACHERS and FALSE TEACHING that was going to come.

TONIGHT: We have seen being “completed” (filled) by the Spirit of God the God-given characteristics of the born-again human being is expressed in praise and encouragement, deep thanksgiving to the Father through the Son and God-fearing submission to God and to one another. This latter is the subject of Paul’s applications through verse 9 of chapter 6. He wants to help this church full of born-again believers at every stage of growth to know that the life of the Spirit-filled believers has expression in the marriage, the home and in work relationships. It won’t be identical or uniform but it will have a godly unity to it even though such expressions will naturally differ according to the context each of those believers found themselves. Submission is the willing surrender of having to have one’s own will in order to demonstrate Christ’s love given to us. Consequently, the woman submits to her husband to demonstrate her submission or love for both Christ and her husband. The husband surrenders his will (submits) to his wife by loving her the same way Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. He is to lay down his life for his wife and provide everything for her to be a pure vessel and manager of the home. He is presenting her to Christ as he is changed from “natural” to

*“supernatural!” But what about when they have children? **NOTE:** in the text below, when I use the singular “parent” I am including both parents as a team with a singular purpose in raising a child. But the biblical emphasis is placed on the father in both Old and New Testaments so with my text below the counsel is primarily to the father who is to set the pace for biblical instruction and raising the children.*

II. PAUL’S COUNSEL TO BORN-AGAIN CHILDREN

- A. Children are a gift from the Lord: getting your mind on right**
 - 1. *The born-again believer is learning a new story about himself, his world, his purpose and God and His ways.*
 - 2. *He learns that in many areas he has not been told the truth but the truth has been perverted. As he learns biblical truth he submits himself to it even if his naturalistic, “scientific” mind has not got it all figured out yet!*
 - 3. *Children are not an accidental pairing of two cells from a mechanical act of sexual encounter but God’s careful, loving creation of another human.*
 - 4. *God is involved in the fertilization of the egg of the woman; it is He who “opens the womb”*
 - 5. *Therefore when a conception occurs He is involved in it.*
 - 6. *Children are the ones who will continue the family line, for better or for worse*
 - 7. *When this conception and birth take place with a born again couple, it is to be treated with love, respect and worship of God*
- B. **COMMAND** given to children is for them to obey their parents in the LORD**
- C. **BLESSING** given to children in being obedient to the parents there is the promise of long life and blessing in it.**

III. THE BORN-AGAIN FATHER (PARENT) LEARNING THE NEW WAY

- A. **COMMAND** given to the born-again, Spirit-filled parent:**
 - 1. **WARNING:** *Do not provoke your children to wrath (put off)*
 - a. *Paraorgizo - “para” alongside “orgizo” enrage; to walk along side of them enraging them as you go*
 - b. *Orgizo is the Greek word for passionately stirred up; it will usually end in a display of passionate, uncontrolled rage*
 - c. *A father’s words and actions can be those of disgust, high expectation, ridicule and mockery stemming from some flaw seen by the father in the child.*

- d. *The reminders of the flaws the child can do little about provoke him against his own father for his cruelty to him*
- e. *A father can provoke his child to wrath when the child can see his father really does not know how to teach or does not want to be bothered with it. It may be because he was not taught that way or from lack of confidence that he can teach it. But the father's frustration will come out of him and wound the recipient of his teaching. If it looks like dread or resistance from the father the child senses he is not important enough to be trained.*
- f. *A father can be provoked himself when he sees that child/children are paying no attention. A solution is to find a child's way of learning, use more imagination, tell stories, spend more time with them, and pray a lot. Drop your expectation of them and realize that small smart steps repeated consistently over time will accomplish the task. Build relationships with them instead of expectations of them.*
- g. *The heavenly Father is warning the earthly father about cruelty to His child that He has given this father to learn of God's love and mercy. It is to teach him of his need for control and assistance from the Holy Spirit.*
- 2. *POSITIVELY: Bring him up in the nurture and admonition of the LORD (put on)*
 - a. *Remember what it means to be filled with the Spirit: Know what God's command is, set your heart to please God (not yourself), begin an action toward filling that command with your whole heart, even if you feel totally unskilled and unprepared, and the Spirit of God will meet you to complete the intended obedience. In this cooperative action, do not let fear or failure alter your steps. Just do it!*
 - b. *This Spirit-filled father asks how does God treat me? Once the Spirit gives him a clear view of God's mercy and kindness to the ignorant, stubborn dad, he will look upon his young immature child and consider what a wonderful cooperative stewardship it is to work with God's precious gift to form him/her into the image of Christ!*
 - c. *To nurture is to give the continuous training one would give a disciple. The framework steps, courtesy Trail Life, is "I do, you watch" to "I do, you help" to "You do some, I help" to*

“You do, I cheer you on!” It is an OJT the goes from experiential step to maturity.

d. The admonition of the LORD is to provide the child with counsel of what the LORD says and what the LORD commands. It is to give them a biblical worldview they can incorporate as their own.

B. Here are some things God expects the parent to do:

- 1. Children must learn the fear of the LORD early and with it respect for authority*
- 2. Children are to be treated as God’s gift, especially when he/she seems anything but that*
- 3. The parent is to pass on this heritage to the child and speak graciously and adoringly of God and His gift of each child*
- 4. The parent must bring the knowledge of God’s ubiquitous presence in the child’s life. The parent teaches the child of God’s provision, protection and lordship over the whole family. Therefore, praying early in life is critical to help the child understand from where every good and perfect comes.*
- 5. Consequently, children must be guided into understanding the importance of obedience to the parent, God’s gift to the child.*
- 6. Children need to learn of Christ early and their salvation prayerfully sought from the LORD*
- 7. Saved children must be shown early how to let the Spirit complete them*
- 8. Children are to be educated in the Word, ways and the will of the LORD*
- 9. Children are to be trained to live within the culture they have been born. Within that culture there must be flexibility and foundational firmness: they must know when they can and cannot flex in their culture*
- 10. Children are God’s educational tools to teach parents about God’s character and our need for Him*