

EPHESIANS SESSION 6

Review: Last week we went through chapter 5 where we learned we're supposed to imitate the heavenly Father like children by walking in love. We were admonished not to take part in fornication, uncleanness, covetousness, corrupt and filthy speech. Instead, we were told to be filled with the Spirit through spiritual singing, giving thanks, and being submissive to proper authorities. He then begins the commands for the Christian family starting with the marriage relationship. He closes with pointing out that the Christian husband and wife are to model Christ and his church.

Ephesians 6:1-3 Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth. *Paul continues now with the commands for children which are to obey them and to honor them. Children should accept the guidance and discipline their parents give them because it teaches wisdom and self-discipline. To honor means to esteem, value as precious and be respectful to them. Paul points that this was the first commandment in the law that had a promise for observing it.*

Ephesians 6:4 And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. *There is balance in everything. Children are to obey and honor their parents and the fathers are not to exasperate them to the point of resentment with unrealistic demands, humiliation or abuse (both verbal and physical). Fathers are to bring children up in the nurture (tender care) and admonition (instruction) of the Lord.*

Ephesians 6:5-8 Servants, be obedient to them that are *your* masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; With good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men: Knowing that whatsoever good thing any man doeth, the same shall he receive of the Lord, whether *he* be bond or free. *Moving on to the relationship between employers and employees. Christian employees are to obey their employers without hypocrisy or not just when it is seen by men. We're to serve them like we're serving Christ and if we do, there is a reward for it.*

Ephesians 6:9 And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Christian employers should treat their employees with respect and kindness because they have a Master in heaven that sees everything.

Ephesians 6:10-11 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. *Paul begins the conclusion of this letter, and he shifts now to spiritual warfare. We are to draw upon the strength of the Lord and walk in the power of His might...this implies dependence. We can't be strong in the Lord if we trust solely in our strength. Here we are commanded to put on the whole armor of God – that means that we don't automatically have it on. We're told why we need it on, so that we can stand against the evil schemes and strategies that the devil devises against us.*

Ephesians 6:12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. *To wrestle means to struggle or contend with...wrestlers grapple each other with the intent to of taking the other off their feet and holding them down. The Holy Spirit wants us to know right off that we're not wrestling with flesh and blood (people) but the evil spirits of Satan's kingdom.*

I want to pause right here and finish the session by examining what this verse is really describing so we can understand why we need to suit up in the armor of God.

The term “principality” means a prince invested with sovereignty and the territory which the prince rules over. I cannot stress this enough -this term is not describing earthly governors, judges, presidents, or dictators. It's talking about evil princes in Satan's kingdom. They are described as the “rulers of the darkness of this world”, they have power, and they do “spiritual wickedness in high places”. God's throne is in the third heaven according to 2 Corinthians 12:2 but Satan has a kingdom (Jesus plainly said so) that is seated in the second heaven (prince of the power of the air). Both kingdoms are at war with each other and the battle ground is earth. Both kingdoms are spiritual and influence humanity -

Colossians 1:12-13 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:

Satan is the god of this world. Not of the physical creation but the system that operates on the earth that wants God left out. Since his kingdom stretches over the whole earth, there are territories that are governed by evil princes in the spirit world that influence the direction of people/leaders in the natural world. Let me give you some biblical examples:

- Daniel fasted, prayed and mourned because of his people's condition and captivity as well as seeking understanding of visions he had. He fasted for 21 days when the

angel Gabriel appears to him with a strange message - **Daniel 10:10-13** And, behold, an hand touched me, which set me upon my knees and *upon* the palms of my hands. And he said unto me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak unto thee, and stand upright: for unto thee am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word unto me, I stood trembling. Then said he unto me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst set thine heart to understand, and to chasten thyself before thy God, thy words were heard, and I am come for thy words. But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia. *Gabriel tells Daniel that he was sent to answer his prayers from the first day he prayed them BUT he was held up for three weeks because the prince of Persia withstood him. What man could fight with and hold up an angel for 3 weeks? It wasn't a man...it was a powerful evil prince in the spirit world whose territory was Persia! He also states that the only reason he got free was because of Michael. Michael is referred to here as a "chief prince" meaning he was given more authority than other princes. The spirit world wrestles in authority, not muscle. The reason that Michael doesn't bring railing accusations against Satan is due to authority (Jude 9)...but he says the Lord rebuke thee (turning him over to higher authority).* Then Gabriel tells Daniel that he will have to deal with another prince when he leaves to go back - **Daniel 10:20** Then said he, Knowest thou wherefore I come unto thee? and now will I return to fight with the prince of Persia: and when I am gone forth, lo, the prince of Grecia shall come.

- The Lord's word is spoken against the prince of Tyrus and the king of Tyrus in Ezekiel 28. The prince of Tyrus is a man because of what is spoken about him - **Ezekiel 28:2-5** Son of man, say unto the prince of Tyrus, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Because thine heart *is* lifted up, and thou hast said, I *am* a God, I sit *in* the seat of God, in the midst of the seas; yet thou *art* a man, and not God, though thou set thine heart as the heart of God: Behold, thou *art* wiser than Daniel; there is no secret that they can hide from thee: With thy wisdom and with thine understanding thou hast gotten thee riches, and hast gotten gold and silver into thy treasures: By thy great wisdom *and* by thy traffick hast thou increased thy riches, and thine heart is lifted up because of thy riches: *This ruler of Tyrus is man that has lifted up in pride to the point that he thinks himself a god. He thinks he is wiser than Daniel and that nothing is hid from him. Prosperity has hardened him in pride but he is declared to be a man so we are not talking about a spiritual prince. Listen to God's judgment pronounced on him -* **Ezekiel 28:7-8** Behold, therefore I will bring strangers upon thee, the terrible of the nations: and they shall draw their swords against the beauty of thy wisdom, and they shall defile thy brightness. They shall bring thee down to the pit, and thou shalt die

the deaths of them that are slain in the midst of the seas. *But then the Lord speaks against the king of Tyrus and it's obvious that he is not a man - Ezekiel 28:12-15* Son of man, take up a lamentation upon the king of Tyrus, and say unto him, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee. The king of Tyrus is Satan, meaning that Satan was the spiritual ruler over the territory of Tyrus. He is not called a prince because he is the king. The princes are under him. These verses describe Satan when he was Lucifer the anointed cherub and point out that the iniquity that was found in him was due to pride. Notice that the prince of Tyrus had the same problem...because he was influenced by Satan the spiritual ruler of his land.

- Spiritual warfare against Jesus on earth – King Herod the great ordered all the children 2 years old and under to be destroyed with the hopes of destroying Christ. Satan tempted Christ for the 40 days he was fasting in the wilderness. The first time Jesus preached in his hometown of Nazareth the people tried to push him off a cliff. The Jews tried to stone him multiple times. He faced two unnatural storms on Galilee that he calmed by rebuking the wind. God hid his plan for redemption from the evil spirit rulers of this world so that when he was turned over to them, his death and resurrection was their defeat - **1 Corinthians 2:7-8** But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, *even the hidden wisdom*, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known *it*, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.
- Psalm 82 is the strangest of all the psalms because it speaks with the view of the spirit world - **Psalm 82:1** A Psalm of Asaph. God standeth in the congregation of the mighty; he judgeth among the gods. *This congregation of the mighty and little g “gods” are not men but angels.* **Psalm 82:6** I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. *The Lord God charges them with ruling in wickedness and not uprightly* **Psalm 82:2-5** How long will ye judge unjustly, and accept the persons of the wicked? Selah. Defend the poor and fatherless: do justice to the afflicted and needy. Deliver the poor and needy: rid them out of the hand of the wicked. They know not, neither will they understand; they walk on in darkness: all the foundations of the earth are out of course. *The Lord God pronounces judgment*

on these wicked spirit rulers **Psalm 82:6-8** I have said, Ye are gods; and all of you are children of the most High. But ye shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes.
Arise, O God, judge the earth: for thou shalt inherit all nations.