

Ephesians 6:1-23
Be Strong in the Lord

Matthew Skeedo story!

We are saved through faith in Jesus and the repentance of our sins. You were dead in sin and now you are alive in Christ.

When Jesus is our Lord, we are given a spiritual inheritance of heaven, the Spirit of God resides in us now, and God gives us God's people as community to live life with.

We can pray and ask God to help us and God Himself helps us!
God wants His church to be unified and loving to each other. It is our church family and the people of the church are the people that will fill heaven.

We now have a new life in Jesus. We can walk in a new life in Christ and look and act different than we used to. We can walk through life in love.

There is to not be sexual immorality and impurity in our life and in the church.
And now..... we all have people in our lives that have authority over us. That is Gods design. If we cannot submit to those over us, how can we submit to God. God puts us in training.

Husbands and wives, Parents and children, Employers and employees.

Ephesians 5:1-2 *Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. 2 And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.*

- **Do you have a problem with authority?**
- **Do you listen to your parents?**
- **Do you listen to your boss?**
- **Do you tap into Gods strength and power in your everyday life?**

Vs 1-4 Children obey your parents in the Lord. This is God's design. If we listen to our parents, it honors God and it helps us.

God wants what is best for us. Our parents want what is best for us. If you cannot honor your parents, how are you going to honor the Lord?

When a wife honors her husband it is worship to God.

When a child honors a father and mother, God sees that and cares about that and it is worship. God blesses a child like that. God tells us that if we honor our father and mother, He will add years to our life!!!!

If a child honors and listens to his father, the father needs to be careful to be gentle and loving and kind to that good child. A father must not discourage his child, but bless them and encourage them.

A father's and mother's job is to disciple a child and grow them up in the Lord and model godliness.

When kids see this, it impacts them and their own kids. They know how to parent well, disciple well, and live well. They know how to submit to God.

Gather ~ Praise ~ Pray ~ Grow ~ Serve

Vs 5-9 All of this is in the context of Christianity and the church. The father and mother are saved. The kids are saved. The servant and master are saved. How should they live and relate to each other.

Paul is not condoning slavery. It is thought that over 30% of society in Ephesus at that time was slaves. Slavery existed. And.... Slaves were in the familial relationships and in the church! God tells humans to be Christian and godly and loving in any and all situations. Slaves were an integral part of family. A slave could be exploited and taken advantage of. They were vulnerable as a wife or child can be. As time goes on Christianity actually helped get rid of slavery all together.

It would be natural for you to resent authority over you. The government, police, your boss, your spouse, elders at church, or your master. God tells us that we are to love, serve, and work hard and do it all for the glory of God. He sees that and cares for that. And.... If we love God and work hard under any and all authority over us, doesn't it go better for us? God knows this.

God has a heavenly reward for how we act now. Do you submit to authority that God put in your life? Do you do the right thing even when it is hard? Do you trust that God sees how you live and He will reward you?

Do you rob from your employer? Do you coast or talk bad about those over you?

Vs 10-19 We can be strong in the Lord. We can be strong in His strength!

Do you ask God to help you? When things are hard to you tap into Gods power?

2 Corinthians 12:9 "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

How do we fight the devil? PUT ON GOD!

Our fight is against evil, but God always wins. Be on His team and fight with His power.

We must decide if we are actually gonna take up our God armor and stand firm in Him.

- **Put on truth. No lies. Not the world. Godly truth.**
- **Put on righteousness. Ask Jesus to be your Lord. He purifies you. Live godly.**
- **Be ready. Be peaceful. Share Jesus who helps and saved others.**
- **Have faith in Jesus. That is what saves you. And... that is our promise for heaven.**
- **Be saved. Remember you are saved. Live and act as you are saved. Look to heaven.**
- **Know the Word of God and live the Word of God. Trust the bible. Know it!**
- **Pray**

Vs 21-23 Peace, love, faith, and grace were his prayer blessing to the church.

Ultimately when we serve God as our Master, Savior, and Lord He will bless and help us!