

Week 10, Ephesians: Chapter 6 Pt 1 (Vs 1-9)

Up until this point we have been teaching through Ephesians in an **exegetical** and **expositional** manner. What I mean by that is; we have gone through each verse, in order, and carefully **determined** the literal or **direct** meaning.

With the first half of Ephesians 6 however, I would like to speak primarily about the _____ of the verses. The **whole** of this portion of scripture is greater than the sum total of its **parts**.

Individually, this is a relatively simple section about very basic topics; childhood obedience, paternal leadership and servitude. Collectively, however, these verses _____ a very important and _____ biblical concept.

_____, this passage is about very simple _____.

_____, these instructions illustrate a very _____ & foundational biblical concept.

This concept is; **Submission**

The theme of the Bible in one sentence may be;
Mankind must have faith in what God has said.

But that is not enough... Because 'faith without works is dead' (*James 2:14*)

The faith that counts is the faith that not only believes what God says is true... but also _____ to what God says by cherishing it as _____ valuable.

In more detail, the theme of the Bible in one sentence should be...

Mankind must submit to what God has said by having come to faith in what God has said.

Or said another way...

God's goal is that mankind would trust in his word and his goodness in order that they might submit to his will, desire & design.

In order for mankind to submit to God's instruction & design... they must first see his instruction as desirable or beneficial. Seeing something as **right & correct** is much different than seeing something as **desirable & beneficial**.

It is rather difficult to submit to something that is _____ ... it is much easier to submit to something that is _____.

Submit to God and be at peace with him; in this way prosperity will come to you. Accept instruction from his mouth and lay up his words in your heart. (*Job 22:21-22*)

One of the main themes of the Bible, if not the absolute main theme is;

The need for humanity to willfully and _____ submit to God's instruction, that is; to _____ design and will.

That means then that one of the main themes in the believer's life, if not the absolute main theme is; **The need to willfully and gladly submit to God's instruction, God's design and God's will in all things.**

In this life, God has _____ a structure and and _____.
He has ordained certain roles and positions.

God has ordained that when humanity is following his _____ and design for these roles, it will be better for humanity. That is; his design is **in our best** _____.

Listen to how Paul explains it in Romans 13:1-4

*Everyone must **submit** to governing authorities. For all authority comes from God, and those in **positions of authority have been placed there by God.** So anyone who rebels against authority is rebelling against **what God has instituted...** The authorities are God's servants, sent **for your good...***

These verses are often used around election time, or in reference to submitting to local officials or Elders etc. However, they are much, much more than that. Paul is laying out what should be the governing mind set of the believer.

The believer understands that the role of husband & father, wife & mother, son & daughter, boss & employee are positions that have been ordained by God.

The believer must understand that God's _____ **of** and _____ **for** those roles are best and for the good of humanity.

And the first half of Ephesians 6 is about specific roles or occasions in the life of the believer which must be submitted to God. These verses give basic and clear instruction about God's design & desire for children, fathers, employers etc.

Those who believe that God's design & desire is best, for our good and is worth following will _____ to _____ to his instruction in these areas.

Following God's design and direction for husbands, fathers, wives, mothers etc. is not just **right & correct...** Following God's design and direction for husbands, fathers, wives, mothers etc. should be desirable because it will be very _____ for the _____.

The essence of the Christian life is _____ that what God says & what God designs is not only true, but also _____ and for my good.

The essence of the Christian life is that because I believe that what God instructs is for my good... I will _____ submit to it, knowing that is it for my _____.