

# Chapter



## Part 1

(v1-9)

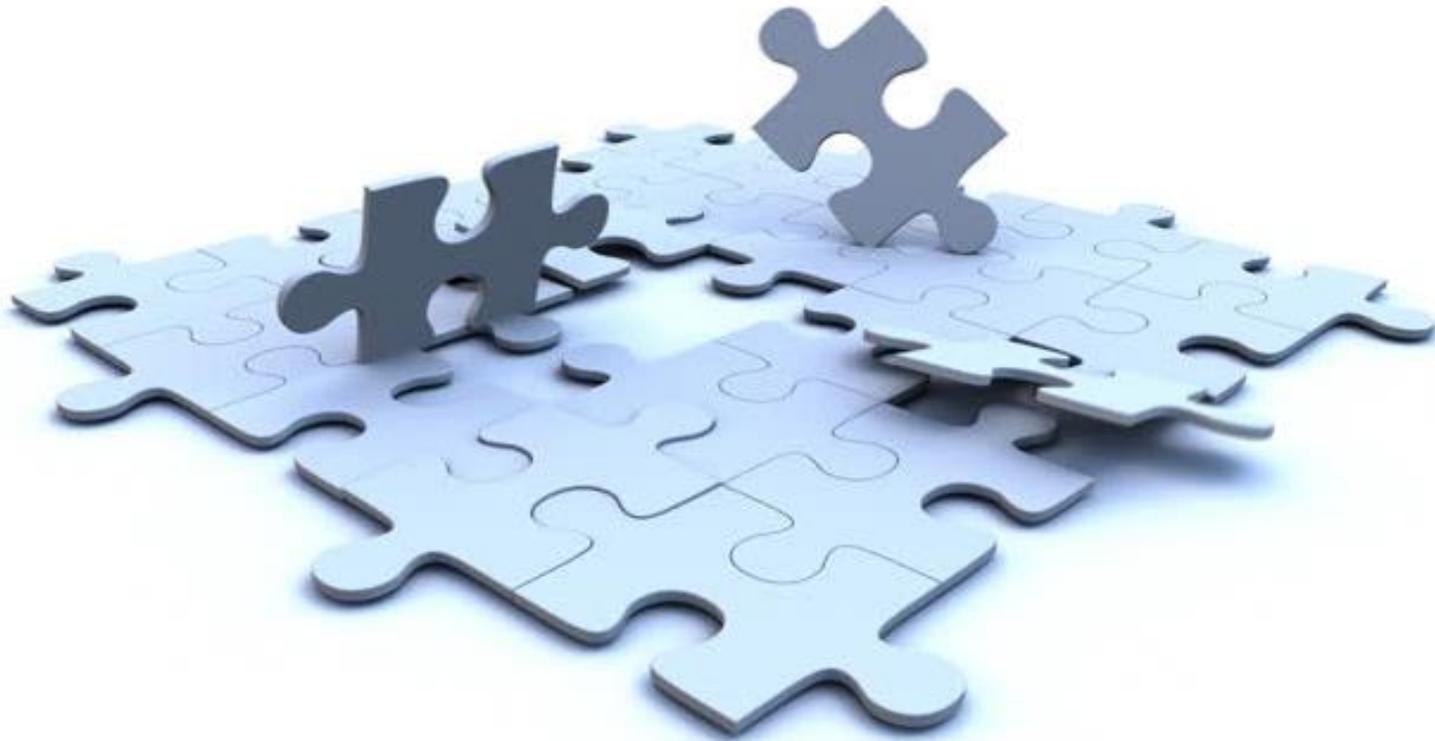
I would like to try something  
a little different today...

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 *essence* 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 **encompass**  
a very important and  
**essential** biblical concept.

*Individually*, this passage is  
about very simple *instructions*...

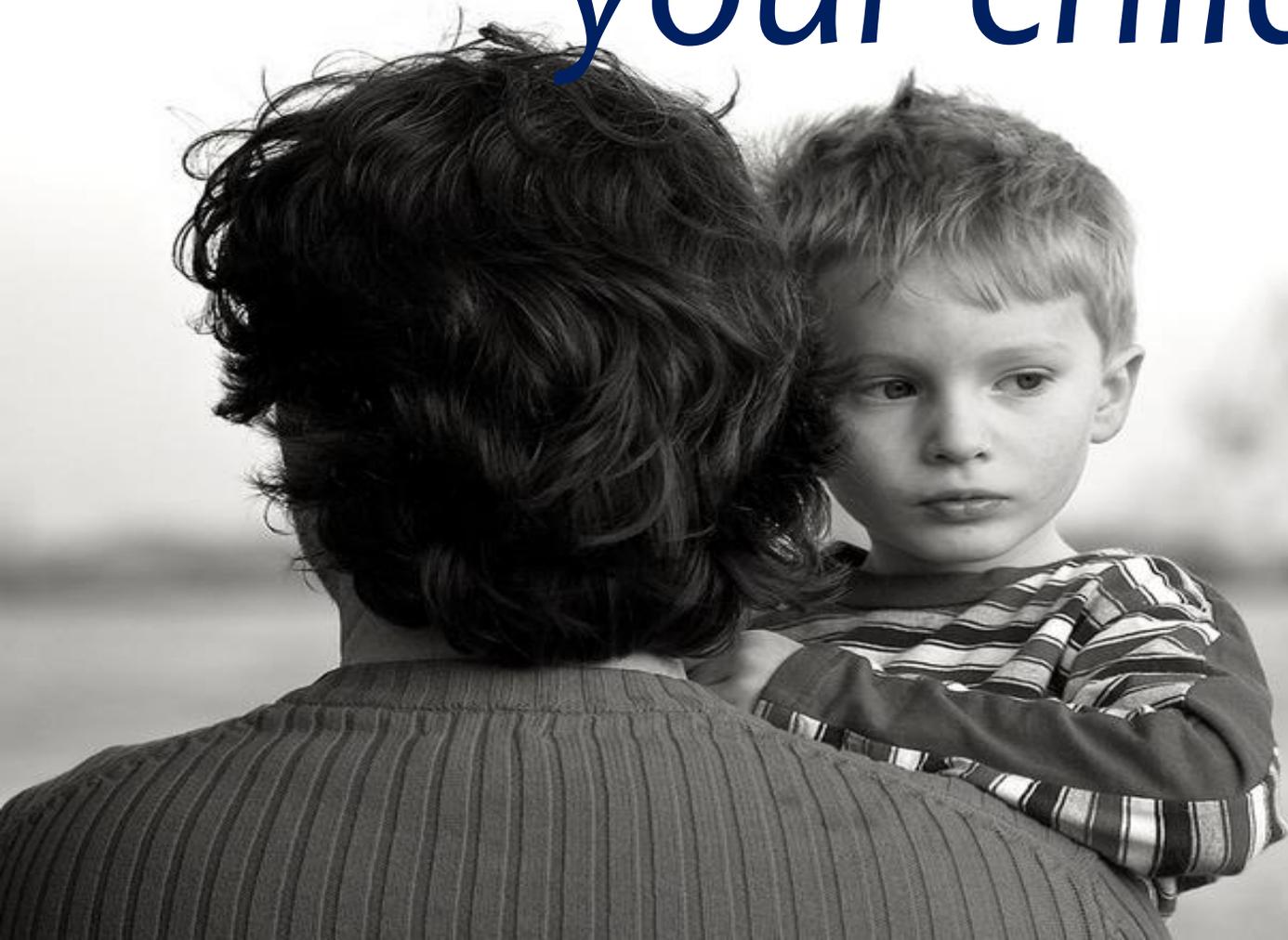
*Children,  
obey your parents...*



*Children, honor your  
father and mother...*



*Fathers, do not exasperate  
your children...*



*Fathers, bring your children up in the training and instruction of the Lord...*



*Slaves, employees, obey your earthly masters with respect...*



*Masters, employers, treat your slaves,  
employees, in the same way.  
Do not mistreat them...*



Again, *collectively*, these instructions illustrate a very *crucial* and foundational biblical concept.

This concept is;

***Submission***

*Let me explain...*

If you were to ask me to summarize the theme of the Bible in one sentence I would probably say;

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 *submits* to what  
God says by cherishing it as  
*supremely* valuable.

So 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.

I would like to add;  
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 **demanded**...  
it is much easier to submit to  
something that is **desired**.

The following verses in Job  
say this almost verbatim.

**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)**

**Job says to;**

Accept (believe) the instruction from the word of God and to cherish it (see it favorably) in your heart and therefore submit to it...and in doing so you will benefit (prosper).

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

The need for humanity to willfully and gladly submit to God's instruction, that is; to God's 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  
**ordained** a structure and  
and **order**. He has ordained  
certain roles and positions.

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

*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.

**Submit** to governing authorities. For all **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**...

The believer understands that  
**the role of husband & father**  
is a position that has been  
ordained by God.

The believer understands that  
**the role of wife & mother**  
is a position that has been  
ordained by God.

The believer understands that  
**the role of son & daughter**  
is a position that has been  
ordained by God.

The believer understands that  
**the role of boss & employee**  
is a position that has been  
ordained by God.

The believer must understand  
that God's *design of* and  
*direction 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 **seek** to **submit** to his instruction in these areas.

*And I must repeat myself,  
I can not stress this enough!*

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 **beneficial** for the **believer**.

The essence of the Christian life is **believing** that what God says & what God designs is not only true, but also **best** 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 *gladly* submit to it,  
knowing that is it for my *good*.

Let's close in silent prayer,  
asking God to help us see his  
design as desirable.

Let's close in silent prayer,  
asking God to help us submit  
to his design in all aspects  
of our lives.