

# Ephesians 6

**Ephesians Overview** – Written to Christians in the port city of Ephesus (western Turkey today), this letter continues the emphasis of Galatians that “by grace you have been saved through faith” (2.8)—a major theme of Paul’s. Other highlights include sections on unity in the body of Christ (4.1-16); mutual submission (5.21-6.9); and the whole armor of God (6.10-18). ~ 60 A.D.

**Note** – The *chapter divisions* in our Bibles were first put down by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton in the 1200s. The Old Testament verses were recorded by a Jewish Rabbi in the 1400s. The final version of chapter and verse we use today first appeared in the Geneva Bible of 1560. In other words—the Biblical authors did not necessarily intend their thoughts to be broken into the chapters later editors added.

**Children and Parents** – *Ephesians 6.1-9 (concludes section begun in 5.21)*

- Proper order within families
- The 4<sup>th</sup> commandment (Exodus 20.12) ... “that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.”
- Fathers, do not provoke... “lest they become discouraged” (*Colossians 3.21*).
- Serve those over you as you would Christ. (*Slaves may have comprised 1/3 of the population of Ephesus*).
- “Christianity does not offer us escape from circumstances; it offers us conquest of circumstances.” ~ *William Barclay*
- Treat those under you with the knowledge that you yourself are under the Lord

**The Whole Armor of God** – *Ephesians 6.10-19*

- “Be strong **in the Lord** and in the strength of his might”
- “...that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil” (*cf. 1 Peter 5.8-9*)
- “we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over **this present darkness**, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.”
- Story – The Battle of Jutland (1916)
- “stand firm”
  - **Belt** of truth
  - **Breastplate** of righteousness (*cf. Isaiah 59.15b-18*)
  - As **shoes**...the readiness given by the gospel of peace  
“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him who brings good news, who publishes peace, who brings good news of happiness, who publishes salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’” ~ *Isaiah 52.7*
  - **Shield** of faith
  - **Helmet** of salvation

- **Sword** of the Spirit—“For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” ~ *Hebrews 4.12*
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- Praying at all times in the Spirit
  - Keep alert with all perseverance
  - Make supplication for all the saints

### **Final Greetings** – *Ephesians 6.21-23*

- “**Peace** be to the brothers”
- **Love** with **faith**
- “**Grace** be with all who love our Lord Jesus Christ with *love incorruptible*.”