

Identity 18: Eph. 6:1-10

(This mutual yielding to one another continues in every social relationship we engage in and extends the attractive display of the Christ life, beginning at home, cradled in the warm embrace of loving parents;) the way children respond to their parents give evidence to their righteousness in the Lord. (In essence the term righteousness speaks of two parties esteeming likeness in one another). The first commandment that includes an immediate and long-term incentive is in reference to children honoring their father and mother. Both quality and duration of life on earth is impacted by the way children relate to their parents. Fathers, your role is not to exasperate your children (by giving them burdens and tasks too heavy to bear). **You are rather to awaken their minds in an environment conducive to draw on every virtue that is in them in the Lord.** [Eph. 6:1-4](#).

How does this have to do with identity? Here we see that YOUR IDENTITY HELPS SHAPE YOUR CHILDREN'S IDENTITY. **This is so crucial. IF YOU DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR IDENTITY IN CHRIST, THEN YOU WILL MORE THAN LIKELY SHAPE YOUR CHILDREN IN AN IDENTITY THAT IS NOT CENTERED IN CHRIST.**

[Genesis 5:3 \(NKJV\)](#)

³ And Adam lived one hundred and thirty years, and begot *a son* in his own likeness, after his image, and named him Seth.

After the fall, all children were created in the image of their fallen parent. But after being born again, all of that has passed away and we are NEW CREATIONS. **The more we allow the spirit man instruct the soul man using the Word, the more identity we will walk in and impart to our children.**

Mike and I didn't raise Kent perfectly, but we did have several advantages.

1. We had both been disciplined by his parents.
2. We were both willing to die to our flesh and prefer the other.
3. We both relied on Father God to parent through us.
4. HUMOR. HUMOR. HUMOR.
5. We made sure Kent knew when being disciplined that we loved him dearly.

6. We spent time with him.
7. Strong family ties.
8. We put the word in him even young.
9. We demonstrated the power of God and he participated.

If you think this occurred due to me and Mike's upbringing, you are mistaken. I came from three divorces, abusive step moms, drugs, alcohol, sexual sin, rebellion, and hatred. Mike came from drugs, alcohol, sexual sin, rebellion, anger, and abuse.

In the NKJV, children are told to OBEY their parents in the Lord. Obey literally means "to hear under" and has the idea of hearing and then doing. It is a word that defines the quality of the obedience meaning it is a child influenced to obey out of their communion with Christ and natural affection for their parents. THIS REVEALS THAT PARENTS MUST INSTRUCT THEIR CHILDREN ON HOW TO HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST. This is crucial in today's fallen world system. Paul told Timothy in [2 Tim. 3:1](#) that the last days would be perilous (mentally fatiguing) due to a variety of conditions one of WHICH IS NO NATURAL AFFECTION. We are seeing parents and children that literally have no natural affection for each other resulting in increased abortions, child on child crime, child on parent crime, and parent on child crime PLUS AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF REBELLION.

Note that it is the FATHERS specifically who are told not to "provoke your children to wrath." I believe this is because fathers tend to do that BUT SO CAN MOTHER'S. Provoke means TO IRRITATE and EXASPERATE. It is an injustice that makes the child INDISPOSED TO OBEDIENCE AND HONOR OF PARENTS. **Both natural and spiritual children rebel against hypocrisy.** Living a life of integrity, which means you keep your word and are the same inside and outside the home, is the surest way your child will be confident, secure, and disposed to obedience.

If you're children are grown, there isn't much you can do to correct raising them from a place of not knowing your identity. This is WHERE THE GRACE OF GOD COMES IN and does what you were not able to do at that moment. And if you have grandchildren, you can pour things into them. AND DON'T FORGET TO "AWAKEN YOUR MIND IN AN ENVIRONMENT CONDUCIVE TO DRAW ON EVERY VIRTUE THAT IS IN YOU IN THE LORD." And, of course, you can be a disciple to others.

The next level of relationship equally implicated includes the heart attitude of a slave towards his owner; because of your

devotion to Christ, you are now able to give your boss the same undivided, sincere respect and devotion. (Remember we are talking practical church; the Christ-life celebrates the love's initiative in transforming society!) This is not a matter of merely trying to PUT UP A FRONT in order to impress your boss, you are in essence slaves of Christ, addicted to the desire of God to find expression in you; now slave life becomes Christ life. (The so-called "low life" now mirrors the highest life.) However the menial task, put your heart and mind into it as you would unto the Lord; he is your real Boss, not man. It is a well-known fact that it is impossible for good deeds to go unnoticed. It makes no difference whether someone is free or a slave; every single good deed equally enjoys the favorable attention of the Lord. If you're the boss, love's initiative applies to you on EXACTLY THE SAME TERMS; treat your slaves with respect rather than threats, even when they do stupid things clears the air immediately. Take it from your heavenly Master; HE DOES NOT JUDGE PEOPLE OR CIRCUMSTANCES ON FACE VALUE. In conclusion, and with reference to the theme and context of this writing, I encourage you to realize your strength in the Master; your union with him is your limitless resource. [Eph. 6:5-10](#).

Paul continues his relationship discourse on how EMPLOYEES and BOSSES now relate to one another in our day. Now in Paul's day, it was slaves and slave owners. PAUL SAID THAT **DUE TO THEIR DEVOTION TO CHRIST**, they were able to give undivided, sincere respect and devotion. THIS TELLS ME THAT IT WAS A SUPERNATURAL ABILITY DUE TO DEVOTION TO CHRIST. If Paul is telling people who are enslaved involuntarily that they can do that THEN HOW MUCH MORE CAN YOU AS AN EMPLOYEE? **NOT ONLY THAT BUT PAUL WAS ADDRESSING THE FACT THAT AT THAT TIME CHRISTIAN SLAVES WERE FOR THE MOST PART WORKING FOR PAGAN MASTERS!** Verse 10 tells us that our strength LIES IN THE MASTER AND OUR UNION WITH HIM IS OUR LIMITLESS RESOURCE. Jesus did this with His Father on earth, which kept Him grounded in His identity from Father.

[John 13:3-5](#) (NKJV)

³ Jesus, knowing that the Father had given all things into His hands, and that He had come from God and was going to God,

⁴ rose from supper and laid aside His garments, took a towel and girded Himself.

⁵ After that, He poured water into a basin and began to wash the

disciples' feet, and to wipe *them* with the towel with which He was girded.

The insecure would not dare to wash their servants, disciples, employee's feet. THIS IS THE EPIC PICTURE OF HUMILITY and IDENTITY. He washed their feet KNOWING THAT THE FATHER HAD GIVEN ALL THINGS INTO HIS HANDS AND THAT HE HAD COME FROM GOD AND WAS GOING TO GOD. **He only had this revelation as a Man through His union with Father through Holy Spirit.** It is EXACTLY the same for us. IF WE KNOW WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND CHRIST IN US WE WILL NOT NEED TO FAKE IT OR DISRESPECT OTHERS.

Eyeservice is as follows: "It is the service that is done only when one is under the master's eye—an obedience to save appearances and gain undeserved favor, which is not rendered when the master is absent as it is when his scrutiny is on us."

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The employer might not see this type of behavior but God does. IF YOU WANT TO PROSPER IN LIFE AND BE PROMOTED, YOU MUST FULFILL THESE ADMONITIONS FROM PAUL. **Don't be an employee. Be an employpreneur.** This attitude comes from the SOUL where your character is developed and where your motives are from. The motive of being a good employee comes from the desire to serve the Lord.

Many question why Paul did not address the issue of slavery itself? I love what the Wuest commentary says:

Here, as elsewhere in the N. T., slavery is accepted as an existing institution, which is neither formally condemned nor formally approved. There is nothing to prompt revolutionary action, or to encourage repudiation of the position. Onesimus, the Christian convert, is sent back by Paul to his master, and **the institution is left to be undermined and removed by the gradual operation of the great Christian principles of the equality of men in the sight of God**, and a common Christian brotherhood, the spiritual freedom of the Christian man, and the Lordship of Christ to which every other lordship is subordinate."

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THIS IS THE PRINCIPLE OF MAKING DISCIPLES OF NATIONS! As NT Christianity and apostolic doctrine spread throughout the world, the sins of those nations gave way to the gospel of the kingdom. That is how America will be awakened as well.

I hope you are seeing that our RELATIONSHIP QUALITY IS DETERMINED BY HOW MUCH OF OUR IDENTITY WE KNOW AND ARE SECURE IN AS CHILDREN OF GOD. We will shape and transform society as we allow the love of God to initiate healthy and quality decisions relationally from marriage to children to work.