

# Ephesians Series

## Lesson #271

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Dean Bible Ministries

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Slaves, Masters, Redemption –  
An Introduction  
Ephesians 6:5–9



# EPHESIANS

THE WEALTH, WALK  
& WARFARE  
OF THE BELIEVER



**Eph. 4:1, “I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,”**

**Eph. 5:2, “And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet-smelling aroma.”**

**Eph. 5:8, “For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ...”**

**Eph. 5:15, “See then that you walk wisely.”**

# Context:

## Broad context of Ephesians

**Eph. 2:8**, “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God,

**Eph. 2:9**, “not of works, lest anyone should boast.

**Eph. 2:10**, “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus **for good works** which God prepared beforehand **that we should walk in them.**”

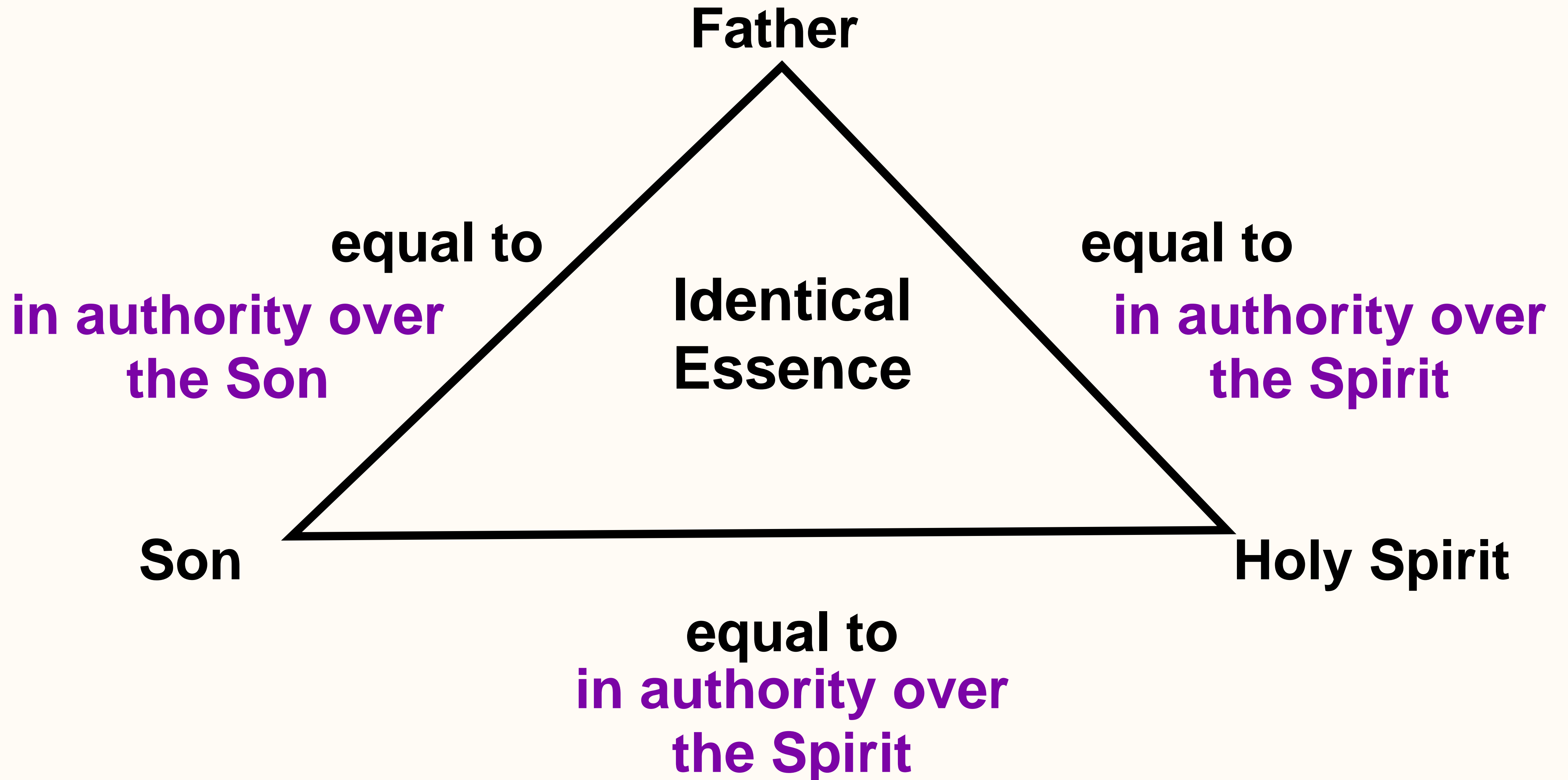
**Context:**

**Near context of Ephesians**

**Three pairs of people who are in authority relationships.**

**wives – husbands,  
children – parents,  
servants – masters**

# Authority in the Triune Relationships

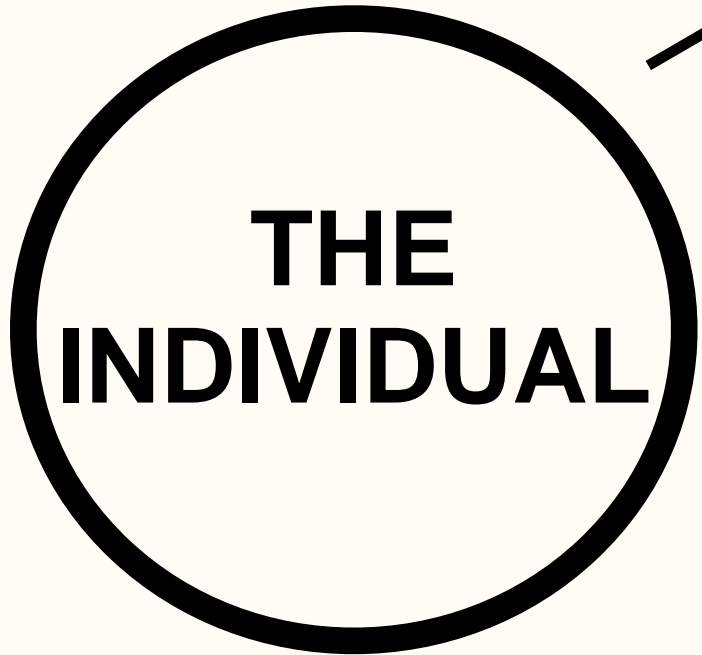


# Spheres of Authority

Authority within the  
Triune Godhead

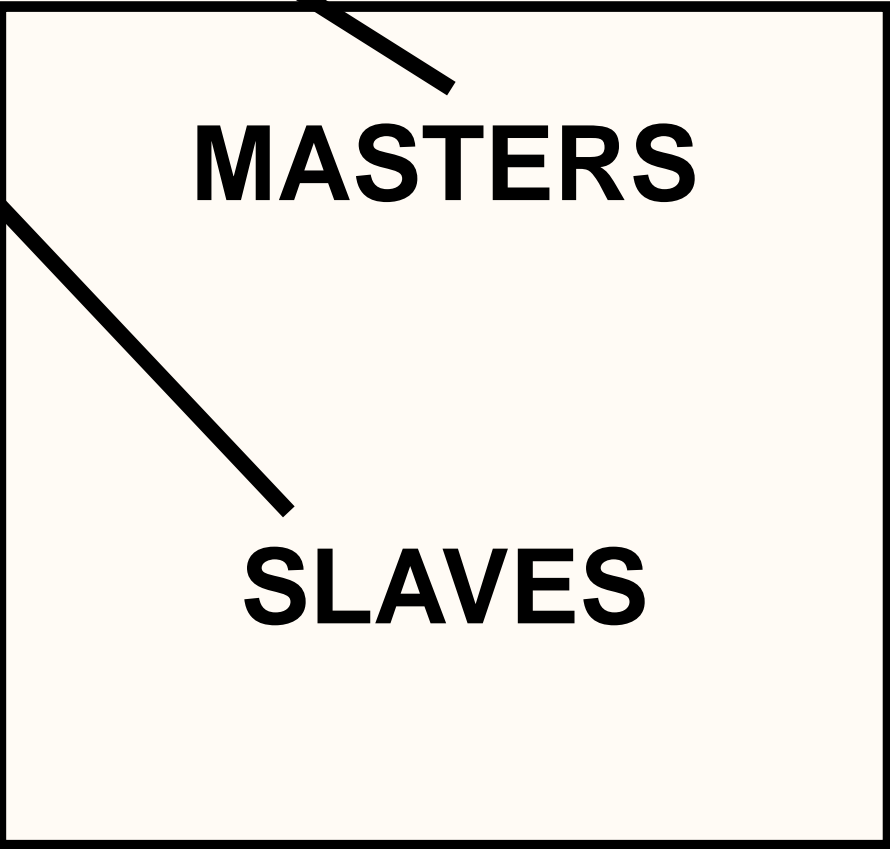
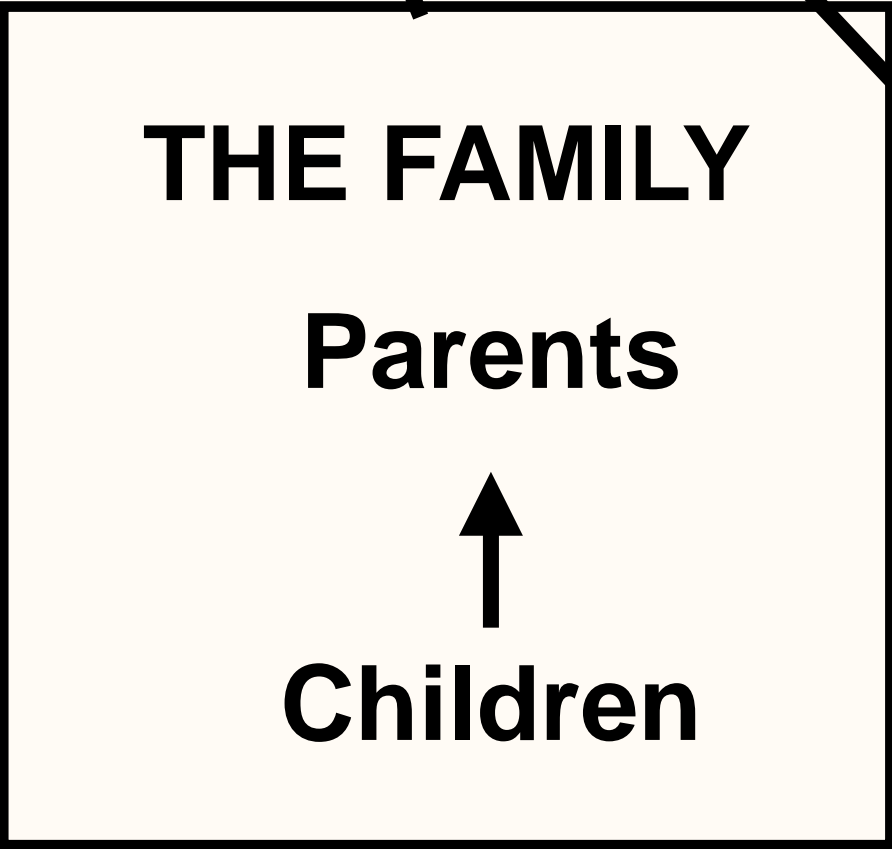
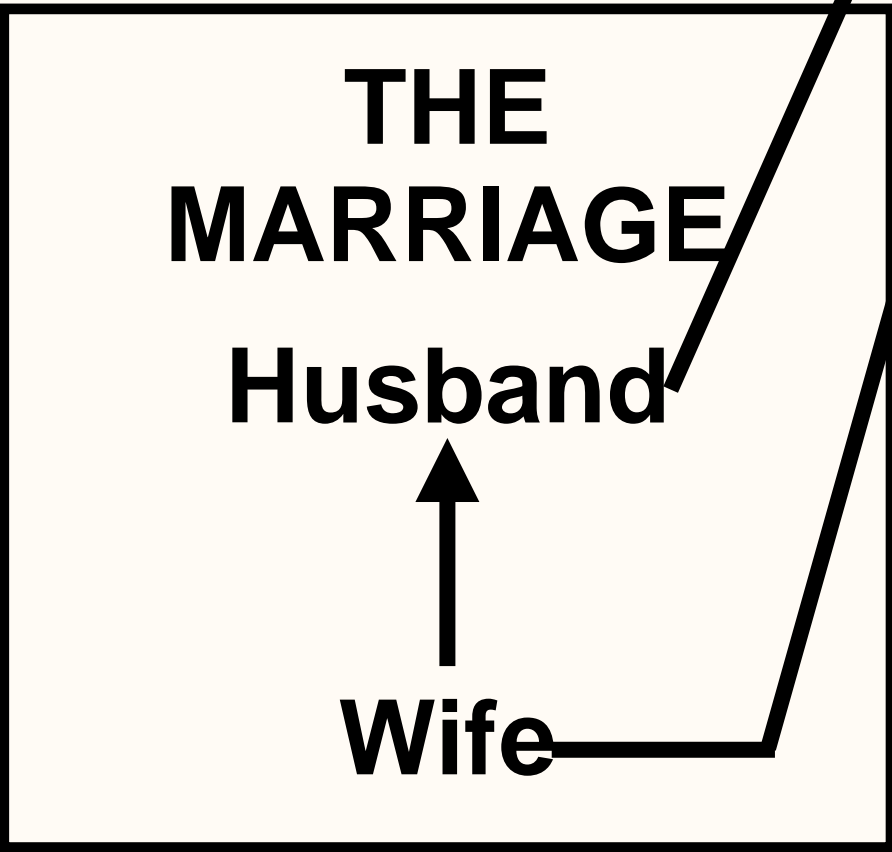


Distinct Roles



Responsible to  
God

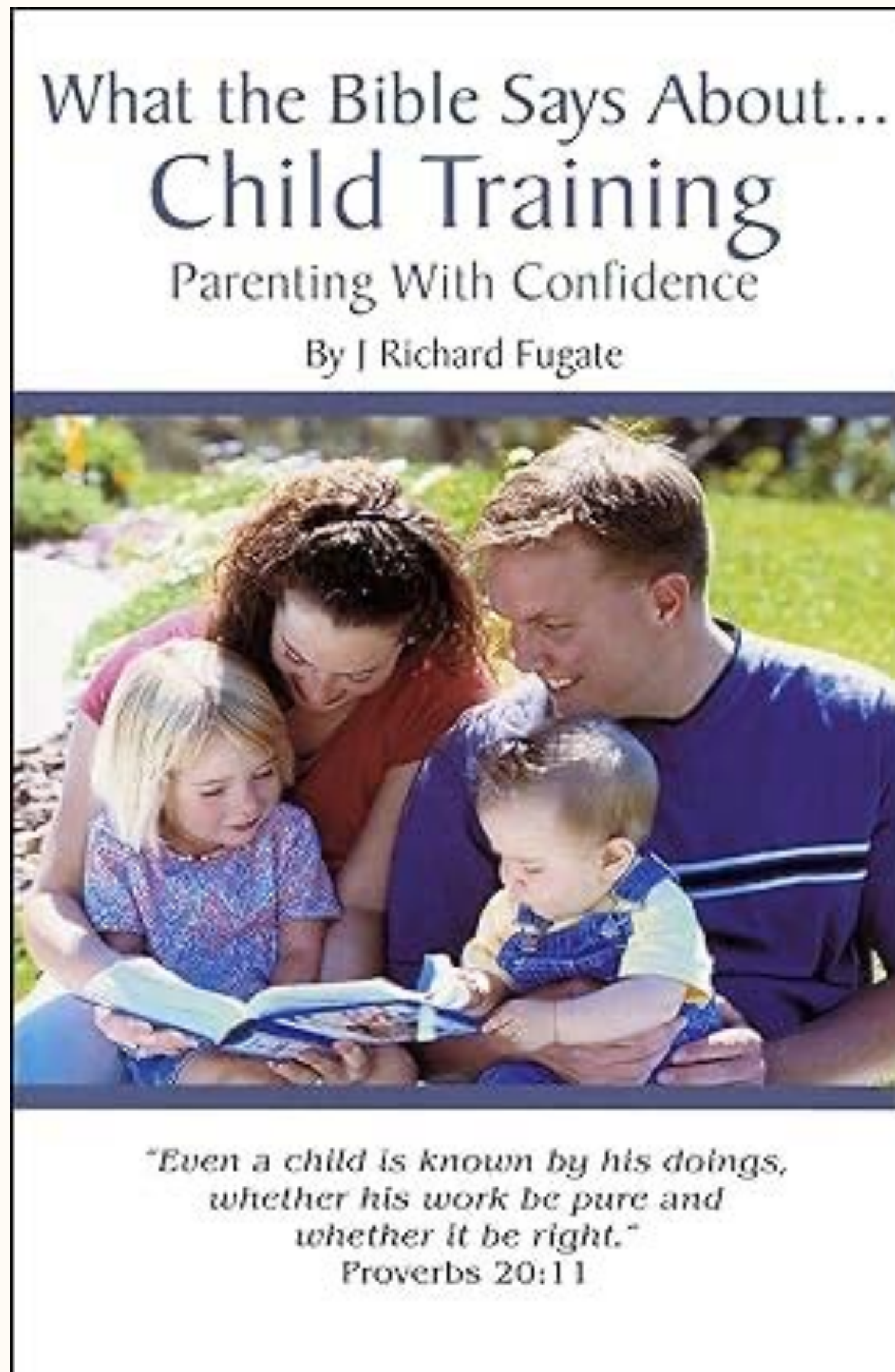
**CREATOR  
GOD**



**1 Sam. 15:23, “For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king.”**



# For Child Training



*What the Bible Says About Child Training* is the title of a bestselling Christian book (300,000+ copies) and of a seminar nominated "Best Film Series" by the Christian Film Distributors in 1981. This material is unique in that the subject is handled solely from the Biblical viewpoint. The author accepts the Bible as absolute truth and as infinitely superior to any human system of thinking. There has been no attempt to modify God's word to make it compatible with human philosophies, psychology, sociology, religious views, or public opinion. *What the Bible Says About Child Training* has been accepted by many Bible-believing churches as the standard text on child training since 1980.

**Eph. 6:5, “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;**

**Eph. 6:6, “not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,**

**Eph. 6:7, “with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,**

**Eph. 6:8, “knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.**

**Eph. 6:9, “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”**



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**Eph. 6:7, “with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men,**

**Eph. 6:8, “because he knows that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free.**

**Eph. 6:9, “And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.”**



**Col. 3:22, “Slaves, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not only when you are watched as if you did it only to please men, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God.**

**Col. 3:23, “And whatever you do, do it from the heart, as to the Lord and not to men,**

**Col. 3:24, “because you know that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.**

**Col. 3:25, “But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.”**

**Eph. 5:22, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”**

**Eph. 5:25, “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,”**

**Eph. 6:1, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”**

**Eph. 6:4, “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.”**

**Eph. 6:5, “Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart,”**

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**δοῦλος *doulos***

**masc plur nominative**

**slave; bonds slave, servant**

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**A slave is someone who has no freedom or independence, but is owned in one sense or another to another human being.**

**Different forms of slavery: prisoners conquered in war, chattel slavery, indentured slavery**

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**slave; bonds slave, servant**

**ὑπακούω *hupakouō***

**2 plur pres act imperative  
to obey; to hear, listen; to  
do what someone in  
authority tells you to do.  
(cf., Col. 3:20)**



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**Eph. 6:1, “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” (cf., Col. 3:20)**

**1 Pet. 3:6, “as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.”**



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subject; to submit**

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**Rom. 13:1, “Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God.”**

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**ὑπακούω *hupakouō***

**2 plur pres act imperative  
to obey; to hear, listen**

**ὑποτάσσω *hypotassō* to  
subject; to submit**

**Eph. 5:21, “submitting to one another in the fear of God.”**

**Eph. 5:24, “Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”**

**Eph. 6:5, “Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”**

δοῦλος *doulos*

masc plur nom

slave; bonds slave, servant

ὑπακούω *hupakouō*

2 plur pres act imperative  
to obey; to hear, listen

ὑποτάσσω *hupotassō* to  
subject; to submit

**Col. 3:18, “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.”**



**Eph. 6:5, “Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”**

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**ὑποτάσσω *hupotassō* to  
subject; to submit**

**Titus 2:9, “Exhort bondservants to submit to their own masters, to be well pleasing in all things, not answering back,” [~RD]**

**Eph. 6:5, “Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”**

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to obey; to hear, listen**

**ὑποτάσσω *hupotassō* to  
subject; to submit**

**Titus 3:1, “Remind them to be subject to rulers and authorities, to obey, to be ready for every good work,”**

**Eph. 6:5, “Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ;”**

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**ὑποτάσσω *hupotassō* to  
subject; to submit**

**1 Pet. 2:18, “Servants, be submissive to your masters with all fear, not only to the good and gentle, but also to the harsh.”**

**Conclusion: The command to obey and the commands to submit are for all purposes synonymous.**



# **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 1. Many Christians come to these passages with a bias, that is shaped by the experience of the U.S. with slavery, a horrific war between the States, between neighbors, and between families, and the legacy of racial problems over the last 160 years.**

# **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 2. Almost all civilizations and empires until the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century practiced all forms of slavery without question.**

## **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 3. Slavery was not a part of the original founding of American colonies. Indentured servitude was, but not chattel slavery.**

## **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 4. Just as the initiation of chattel slavery involved a black slave owner of a black slave, many people are surprised that there were many free blacks who owned not only black slaves but also had white indentured servants.**

**By 1830, there were 3,775 black (including mixed-race) slaveholders in the South who owned a total of 12,760 slaves; ... 80% of the black slaveholders were located in Louisiana, South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland.  
[~Wikipedia]**



## **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 4. Just as the initiation of chattel slavery involved a black slave owner of a black slave, many people are surprised that there were many free blacks who owned not only black slaves but also had white indentured servants.**

**African American history and culture scholar Henry Louis Gates Jr. wrote:**

**“the percentage of free black slave owners as the total number of free black heads of families was quite high in several states, namely 43 percent in South Carolina, 40 percent in Louisiana, 26 percent in Mississippi, 25 percent in Alabama, and 20 percent in Georgia.”**

## **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 5. The emancipation of slaves, the making of the international slave trade illegal, came as a result of the influence of primarily white evangelical Christian males in Britain, which impacted the entire British Empire.**

## **Some Observations about Slavery**

- 6. The reason that the slavery issue in the United States erupted in the horrific war between the states, and it did not in England, is rooted in the theological differences motivating those in England from those in America. The English movement to end slavery was rooted in a grace-oriented evangelically orthodox movement led by men like William Wilberforce and John Newton, who did not see to arrogantly impose their views on others but worked carefully through the decades to achieve it through legal means. In the US, the abolitionist groups were a union of legalistic works-based Christians influenced mostly by the biblically unorthodox views of men like Charles Finney on the one hand, and their pagan counterparts among the New England elite influenced by the utopian ideas of the transcendentalists like Ralph Waldo Emerson and David Thoreau.**

## **Some Observations about Slavery**

**7. The Bible neither authorizes nor prohibits slavery. In the Mosaic Law slavery is regulated on the basis of God's principles, but God does not regulate sin. However, the Bible does use the theme of liberation from slavery to be the picture of salvation.**

**However, it must be understood that the slavery the Old Testament speaks of in Israel was very different from the race-based chattel slavery practiced in much of the United States.**



# **The Biblical Use of Slavery for the Human Condition**

**1. We were born into slavery. All humans are born slaves to sin.**

**Rom. 6:17, “But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered.”**

## **2. Jesus addressed this in a confrontation with the Pharisees:**

**John 8:31, “Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, ‘If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed.**

**John 8:32, “ ‘And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.’ ”**

## **2. Jesus addressed this in a confrontation with the Pharisees:**

**John 8:33, “They answered Him, ‘We are Abraham’s descendants, and have never been in bondage to anyone. How can You say, “You will be made free”?’**

**John 8:34, “Jesus answered them, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, whoever commits sin is a slave of sin.’ ”**



## **2. Jesus addressed this in a confrontation with the Pharisees:**

- 1. The Pharisees, like all humans, are born slaves to sin.**
- 2. Judea was a province of Rome. They were slaves to the Roman Empire.**
- 3. Since the rise of the rabbinical authority, they were slaves to their legalism.**
- 4. They were slaves to the Mosaic Law.**

**Gal. 3:13, “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, ‘Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree’),”**

**Gal. 4:5, “to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.”**

**ἐξαγοράζω *exagorazō***

**to buy, to redeem,**

**to purchase *out of* the marketplace (the *agora*)**











**1 Cor. 6:20, “For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”**

**1 Cor. 7:23, “You were bought at a price; do not become slaves of men.”**

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