

Passage: Ephesians 1:1-7, 6:1-9

Central Idea: Ephesus was a large Christian church in which Paul wrote while imprisoned, he wanted to bring about unity to all and through all in the book of Ephesians. He writes about this church which he saw in the future as a universal church which believed in Jesus Christ. In this church all were welcome and could learn about how to be a better believer. Ephesians 6:1-3 Paul opens the letter with obedience, Paul wants this church to properly raise their children as in the early days of God believers. His desire was for parents and children to live long and prosperous lives. Paul strictly talks about obedience in respect to parents as well as parents to children. Paul's desire to build a universal church is revived on obedience and respect which were the spiritual antithesis to building his universal church.

Passage Outline

- I. Paul's desire to create a universal church. (Eph. 1)
 - a. Introduction to church of Ephesians
 - b. What is a universal church
 - c. The body of believer's desire to follow Christ
- II. The call to obedience of parents and children
 - a. The commandment of obedience
 - b. Building lives that depict Respect
 - c. The desire for prosperous living
- III. The responsibilities of obedient parents, children, servants
 - a. Sincerity of the heart
 - b. How to treat our neighbors
 - c. Obedience and respect as a reflection of God
- IV. Conclusion
 - a. Summarization of how a universal church derives from obedience and respect of its believers
 - b. Summary of reflection of Gods presence in the Ephesian church