

## Story 125: Paul Writes to the Christians in Ephesus

Paul visited Ephesus and told the people about Jesus. Many became believers and formed a church. After Paul left Ephesus, he wrote a letter to teach the believers more things about following Jesus. He gave instructions for husbands, wives, children, parents and slaves. He also told them they must defend themselves against the devil's attacks.

“Wives should always put their husbands first, as the church puts Christ first. A husband should love his wife as much as Christ loved the church and gave himself for it. . . So each husband should love his wife as much as he loves himself, and each wife should respect her husband.” – Ephesians 5: 24-25, 33

“Children, you belong to the Lord, and you do the right thing when you obey your parents. . . Parents, don't be hard on your children. Raise them and instruct them about the Lord.” – Ephesians 6:1,4

“Slaves, you must obey your earthly masters. Show them great respect and be as loyal to them as you are to Christ. Try to please them at all times, and not just when you think they are watching. You are slaves of Christ, so with your whole heart you must do what God wants you to do. Gladly serve your masters, as though they were the Lord himself, and not simply people. You know that you will be rewarded for any good things you do, whether you are slaves or free.

“Slave owners, you must treat your slaves with this same respect. Don't threaten them. They have the same Master in heaven that you do, and he doesn't have any favorites.”

– Ephesians 6:5-9

“Finally, let the mighty strength of the Lord make you strong. Put on all the armor that God gives, so you can defend yourself against the devil's tricks. We are not fighting against humans. We are fighting against forces and authorities and against rulers of darkness and powers in the spiritual world. So put on all the armor that God gives. Then when that evil day comes, you will be able to defend yourself. And when the battle is over, you will still be standing firm.” – Ephesians 6:10-13