

Week 7: Household and Ethics in Pauline Theology

1. Overview

- 1) The Christian life begins in the home; Paul emphasizes the household as both part of God's created order and the primary space to live out the gospel.
 - 2) Ethics is not merely about rules, but a lifestyle in response to the gospel.
 - 3) The church and household are interconnected communities.
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2. Key Texts

- 1) Ephesians 5:21–6:9 (Wives, husbands, children, parents, slaves and masters)
 - 2) Colossians 3:18–4:1
 - 3) 1 Timothy 3:4–5, 5:8
 - 4) Titus 2:1–10
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3. Pauline Principles for Household Ethics

Area	Ethical Principle
Marital Relationship	Mutual submission and Christ-like love (Eph 5:21–33)
Parents and Children	Obedience in the Lord and nurturing discipline (Eph 6:1–4)
Slaves and Masters	Mutual dignity as fellow servants of Christ (Eph 6:5–9)
Home and Church	Healthy household management as a qualification for church leaders (1 Tim 3:4–5)

4. Gospel-Based Ethical Motivation

- 1) Ethics rooted not in legalism but in transformed life through the gospel.
 - 2) Renewed hearts by the Holy Spirit (Rom 12:1–2; Gal 5:22–23) manifest in family life.
 - 3) Paul redefines traditional patriarchal roles by introducing gospel centered relationships.
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5. Contemporary Applications

- 1) Gospel ethics remain relevant across diverse family structures (single parent, dual-income, multicultural households).
 - 2) Ethics go beyond private life to include communal responsibility.
 - 3) The home is a “small church,” a place for discipleship and practical faith.
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6. Conclusion

- 1) For Paul, the household is a microcosm of the gospel, and a reflection of the church.
- 2) Ethics means practicing the gospel within relationships, starting at home and extending to the church and the world.