

EPHESIANS

TRANSFORMED BY GRACE, EMPOWERED BY PEACE

STUDY 18 FAMILY AND WORK

Ephesians 6:1-9



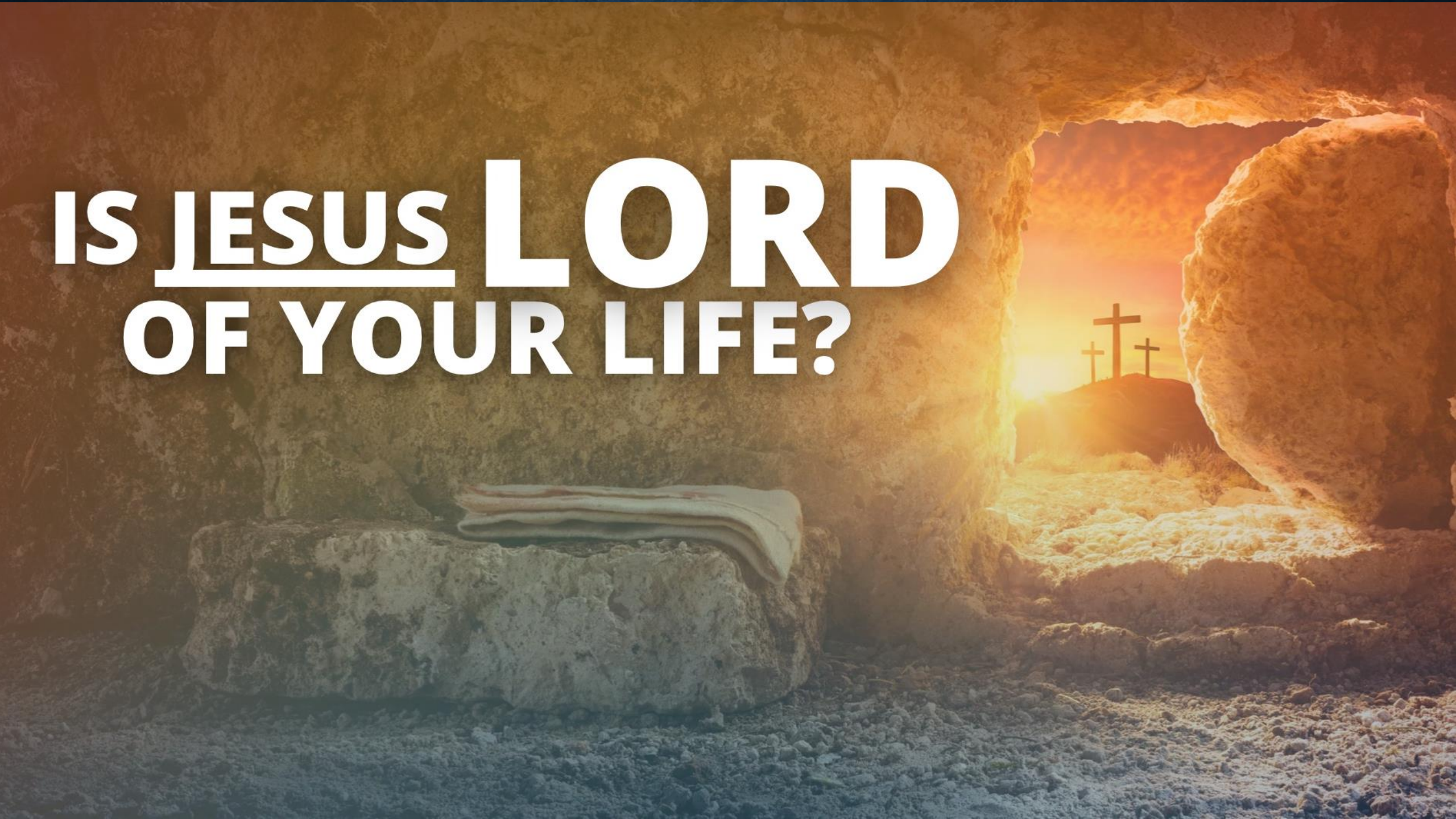
Living and working out spiritual
transformation in the church

EPHESIANS 6

1. Family and Work v1-9

2. Spiritual Warfare v 10-20

**IS JESUS LORD
OF YOUR LIFE?**



FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS

Tekna -Children who can understand and obey

Ephesians 6:1-9 (ESV) **Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

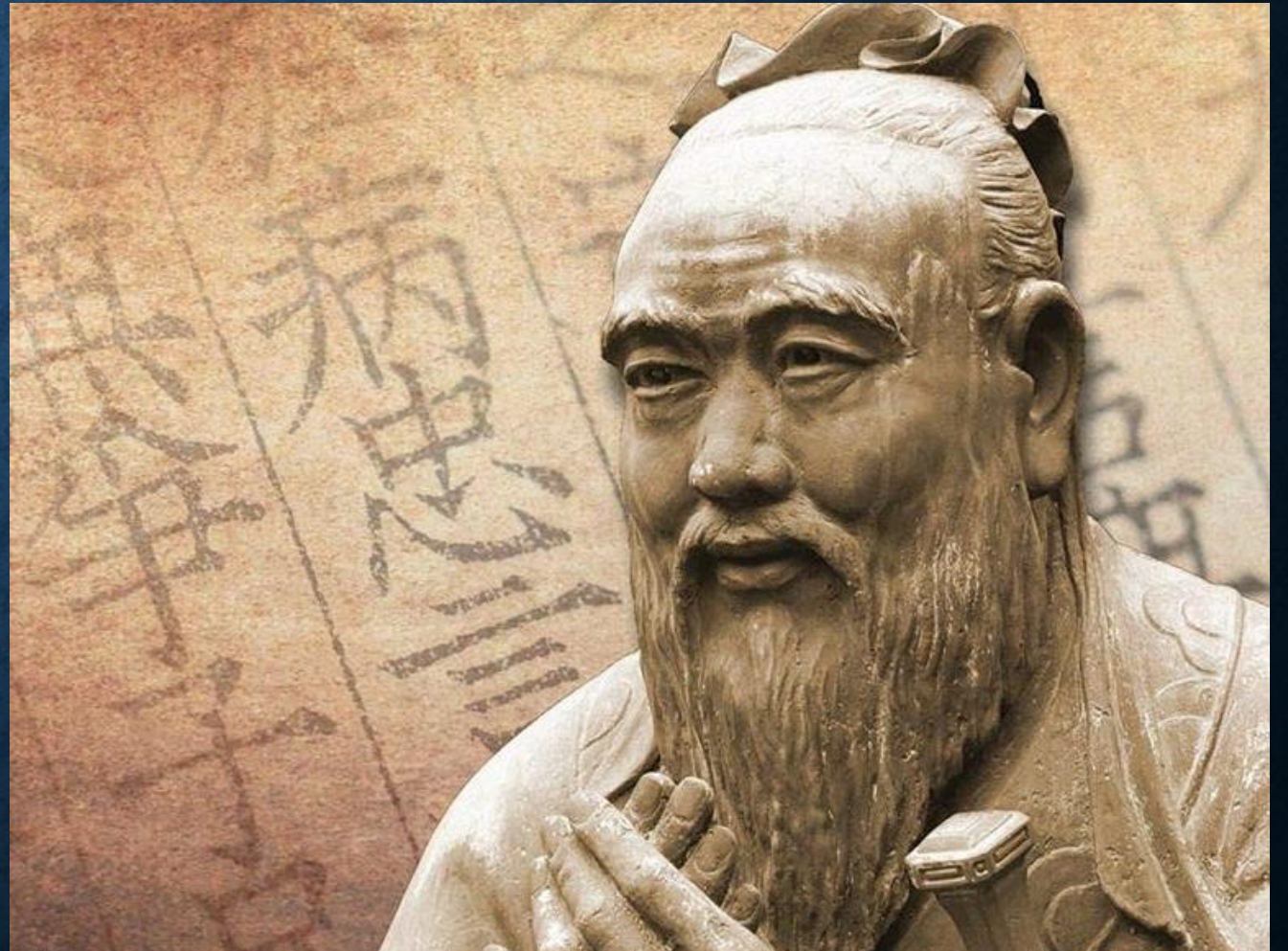


HOUSEHOLD CODES

- There were household codes which were manuals for relationships
- Christians wrote household codes and addressed slaves whilst pagans did not
- Household codes provided for family relations
- Fathers owned the children

XIÀO

“an attitude of devotion to one’s parents and ancestors that one expresses through obedience, loyalty, and respect.”



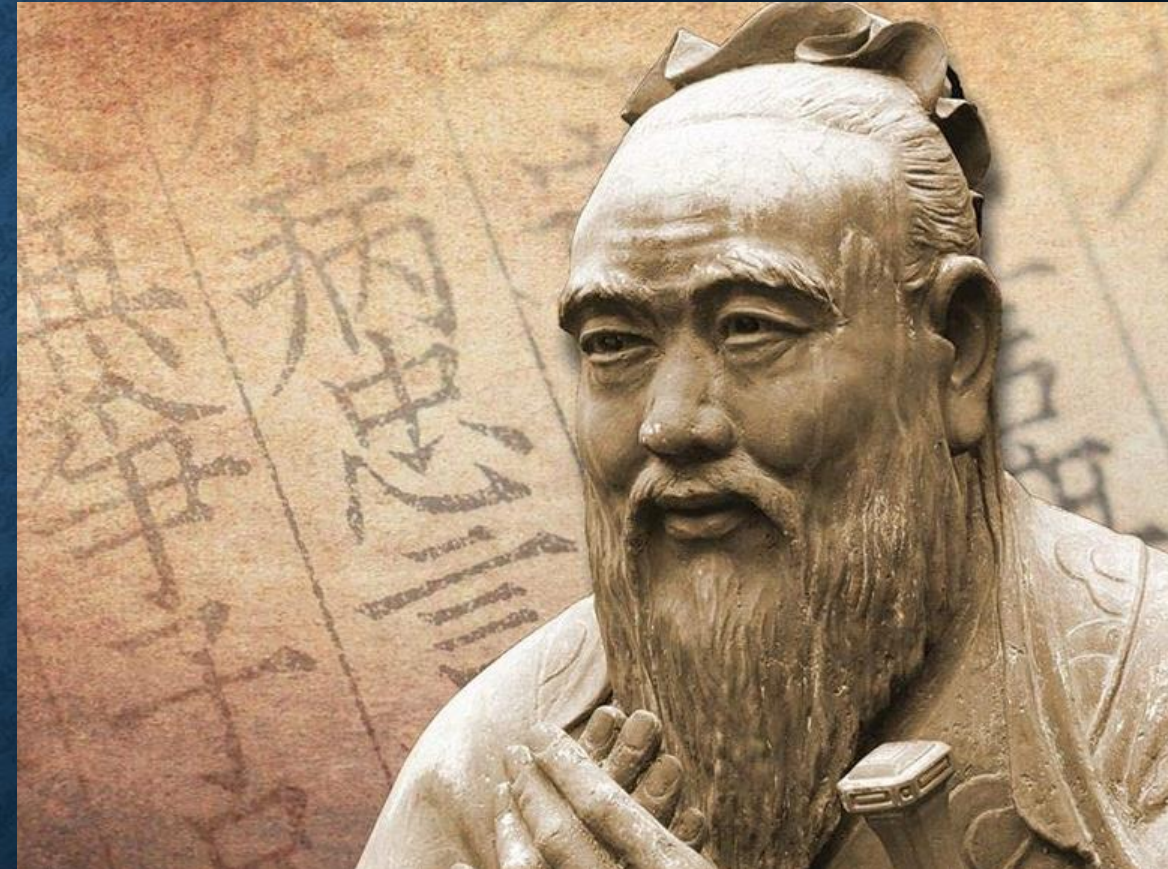
XIÀO

“In serving his parents, a filial son reveres them in daily life; he makes them happy while he nourishes them; he takes anxious care of them in sickness; he shows great sorrow over their death; and he sacrifices to them with solemnity.”



XIÀO

Filial piety begins with serving one's relatives, continues on with serving one's ruler, and culminates in establishing character or personal fulfillment and self-actualization for the person who practices filial piety (始於事親，中於事君，終於立身).



MOTIVATION OF FILIAL PIETY



- motivation for self-preservation, fame, and success is filial piety
- one must avoid acts that lead to trouble or disaster for the sake of one's parents
- One must make a name for the sake of the honour of parents

GOAL OF FILIAL PIETY



- Establishment of virtue
- It is “an all-embracing rule of conduct” allowing people “to live in peace and harmony” and to be of “one accord with all under heaven
- reinforces role ethics, knowing who one is in relation to others in society

OBEDIENCE WITH CAVEAT

Ephesians 6:1-9 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.² “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise),³ “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.”⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

BIBLICAL SIMILARITIES

- love and obedience towards one's parents,
- submission to governing authorities,
- respect for social hierarchy,
- belief that such an attitude is divinely ordained.

DIFFERENCES

Filial Piety



one of the virtues that maintain social structure and harmony.

Submission to all others— parents, spouses, governing officials—is an extension of one's devotion to God

NT practice



obedience is primarily directed towards God

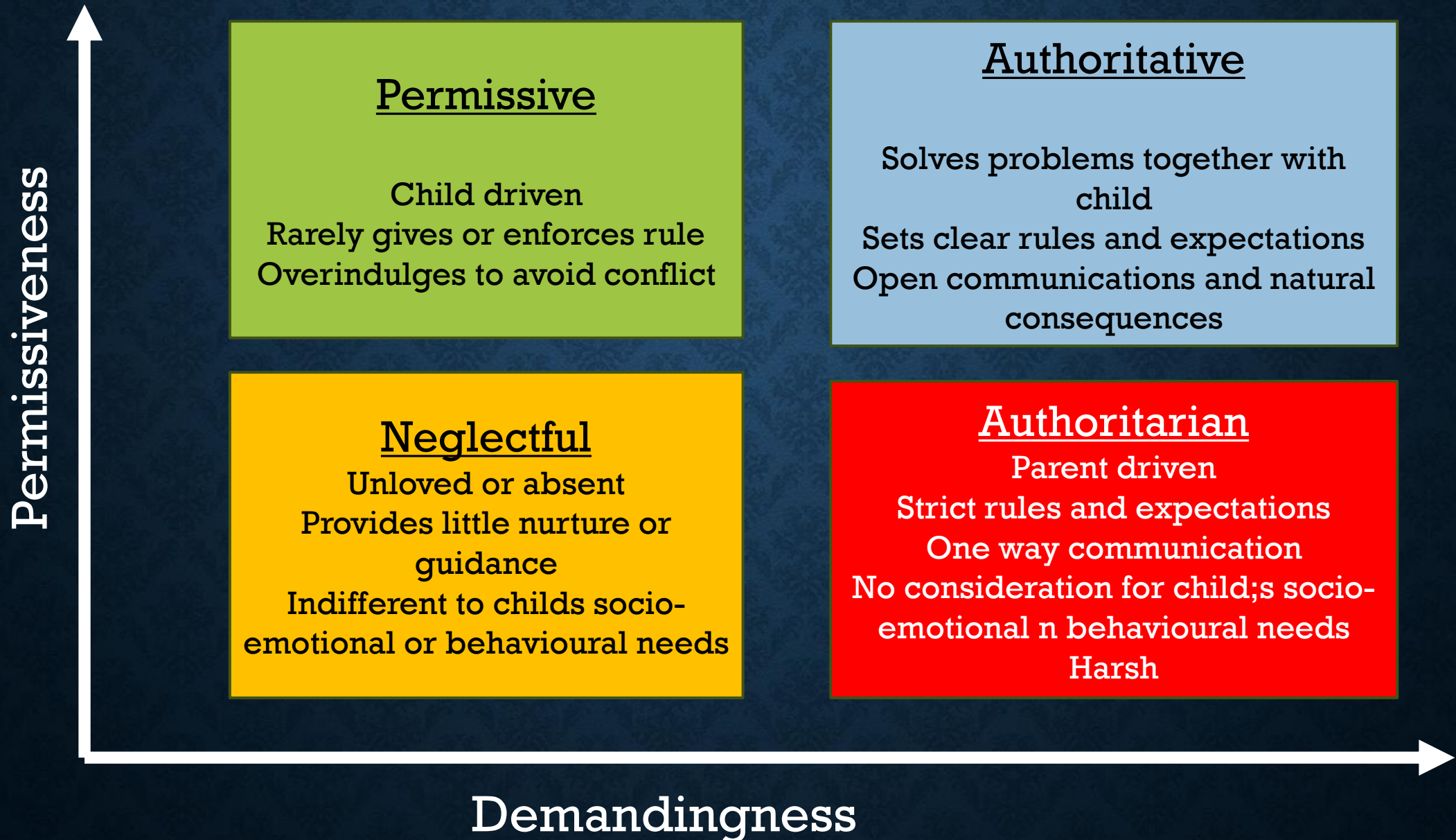
Principle of harmony



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PARENTING MODES



Permissive

Child driven
Rarely gives or enforces rule
Overindulges to avoid conflict

Authoritative

Solves problems together with child
Sets clear rules and expectations
Open communications and natural consequences

Neglectful

Unloved or absent
Provides little nurture or guidance
Indifferent to child's socio-emotional or behavioural needs

Authoritarian

Parent driven
Strict rules and expectations
One way communication
No consideration for child's socio-emotional and behavioural needs
Harsh

Demandingness

PARENTING MODES



Permissive

Angry because they will clash with societies rules and expectations

Authoritative

Best adapated

Neglectful

Angry
Unloved
Act out to get attention

Authoritarian

Angry being put down
Dependant
Rebel

GOSPEL WAY

- Teach them what is right in the Lord
- How to think through issues with biblical values
- Aim is to make them self sufficient

HONOR

Ephesians 6:1-9 (ESV) Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord

Commandment
about God

Commandment
about parents

Commandment
about others

Ten Commandments

1 - YOU SHALL HAVE NO OTHER "GODS" BEFORE ME

2 - YOU SHALL NOT MAKE FOR YOURSELF AN IDOL

3 - YOU SHALL NOT TAKE THE NAME OF GOD IN VAIN

4 - REMEMBER THE SABBATH DAY TO KEEP IT HOLY

5 - HONOR YOUR FATHER AND YOUR MOTHER

6 - YOU SHALL NOT MURDER

7 - YOU SHALL NOT COMMIT ADULTERY

8 - YOU SHALL NOT STEAL

9 - YOU SHALL NOT LIE

10 - YOU SHALL NOT COVET

HONOR

- Treat with respect
- Does not mean obey without thinking
- Cannot be too dependent so cannot leave and cleave

HOW DO WE HONOR OUR PARENTS

1 Samuel 2:30 (ESV) 30 Therefore the Lord, the God of Israel, declares: I promised that your house and the house of your father should go in and out before me forever,' but now the Lord declares: 'Far be it from me, for those who honor me I will honor, and those who **despise** me shall be lightly esteemed.

Kabod—weightiness—to make heavy
Same term used of God

CARING FOR AGED PARENTS

Proverbs 19:26 (ESV) He who does violence to his father and chases away his mother is a son who brings shame and reproach.

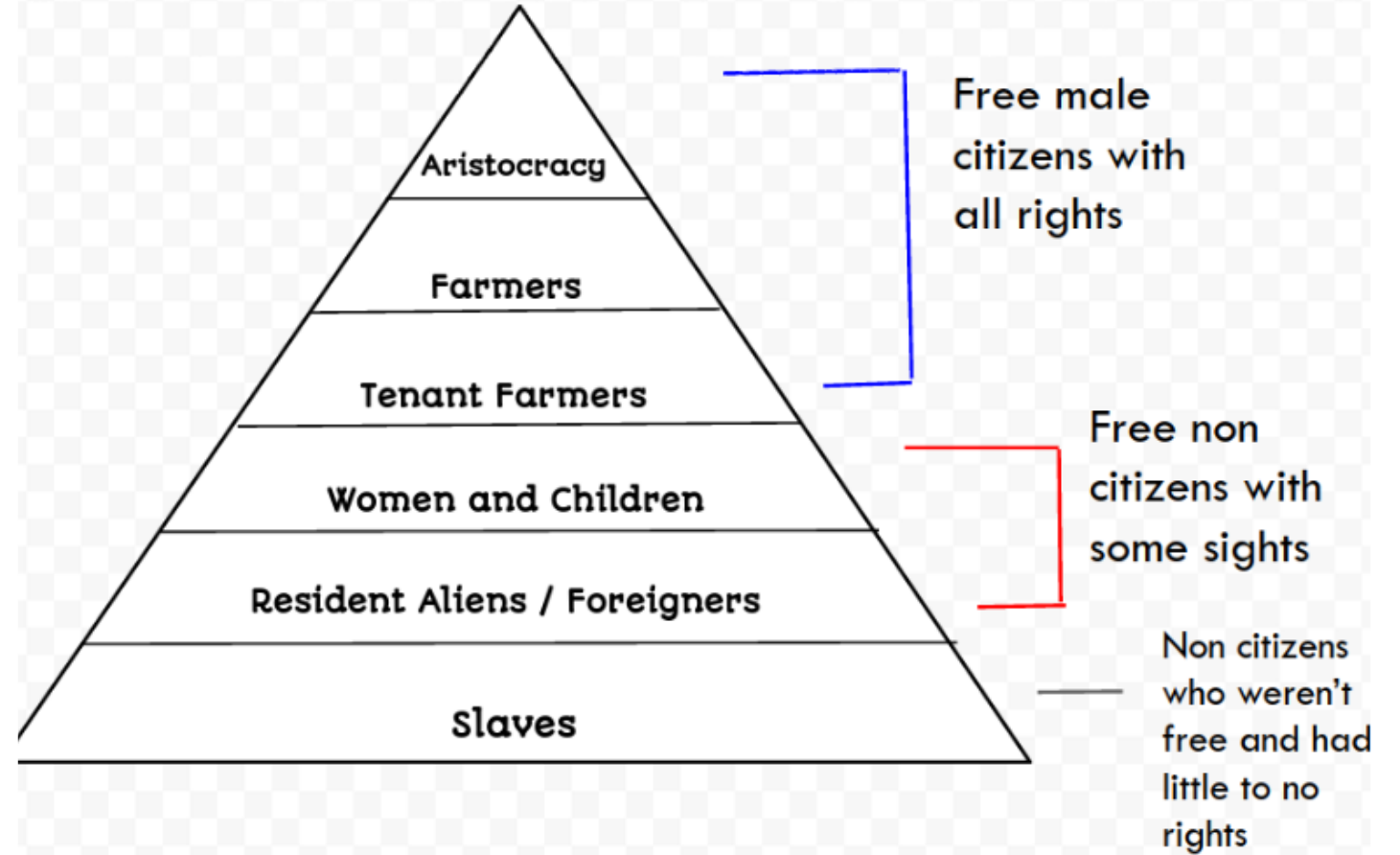
Proverbs 28:24 (ESV) Whoever robs his father or his mother and says, "That is no transgression," is a companion to a man who destroys.

JOSEPH PROVIDES FOR HIS BROTHERS AND FAMILY AND FATHER

Genesis 45:9-11 (ESV) Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt. Come down to me; do not tarry. 10 You shall dwell in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, and your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. 11 **There I will provide for you,** for there are yet five years of famine to come, so that you and your household, and all that you have, do not come to poverty.'

WORK RELATIONSHIPS

ATHENIAN SOCIAL STRUCTURE



GREEK SLAVES



- In court have to be represented by owner not self
- Subject to seizure of arrest by anyone as property
- No legal protection from abuse by owners
- Must work as directed by owner
- Must live where directed by owner

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANCIENT GREEK SLAVES AND AMERICAN SLAVES



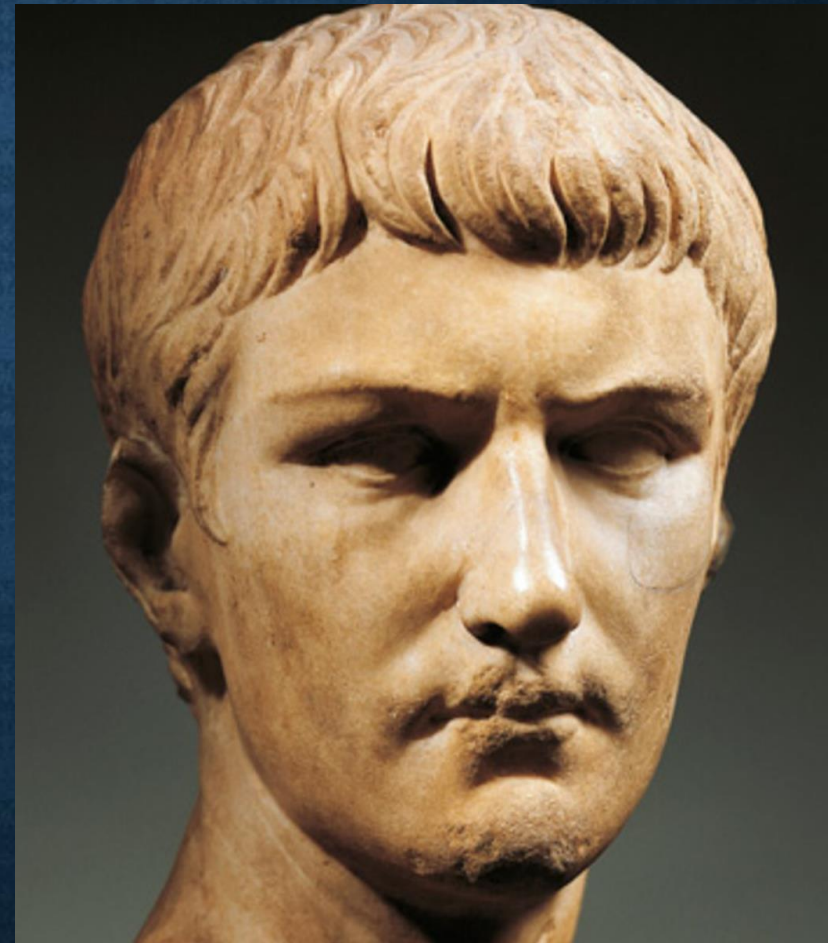
- Food and lodging and medical care provided
- Can be highly trained as teachers or doctors or philosophers, accountants, tailors, bakers
- Can be freed by vindicate, enrollment or manumission
- Owner still has some minor claim on him for work days

ABUSE OF SLAVES

Augustus



Caligula



TREATMENT OF SLAVES



- Reports from Seneca and Juvenal
- Aristotle, Seneca and Columella argued for fair treatment of slaves
- Death for slaves who inform on their owners
- Owners tended to make up their own rules

NIRMALA BONAT



Yim Pek Ha



LABOUR COURT: UNDOCUMENTED WORKER HAS 'NO RIGHT' TO CLAIM WAGES

[Alyaa Alhadjri](#) | Published: Today 2:28 pm | Modified: Today 4:10 pm Malaysiakini



WHY DIDN'T PAUL ADVOCATE ABOLITION OF SLAVERY?

Emphasis- individual transformation then society

Submission to authorities in government which upheld slavery

Earthly Suffering cannot be compared to eternal joy in Christ

Slaves would have converted for ulterior motives

ATTITUDE

Ephesians 6:5 Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ,

Respect not
arrogance whether
deserved or not

respect

Whole heartedly -Not duplicitous
..with integrity

Motivation -Ultimate Master is Jesus
Slave would know they were equal in
the sight of God
However on earth different authority

WORK ATTITUDE

Philippians 2:14-15 (ESV) Do all things without grumbling or disputing, 15 that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,

OBEDIENCE ADORNS THE GOSPEL

Titus 2:9-10 (ESV) Bondservants are to be submissive to their own masters in everything; they are to be well-pleasing, not argumentative, 10 not pilfering, but showing all good faith, so that in everything they may adorn the doctrine of God our Savior.

NAAMAN'S SLAVE GIRL



Not with deception –outwardly compliant
No actual work done

Ephesians 6: 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers,
but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart,
7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,
8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive
back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.



OFFICE POLITICS

WORK AS A DIVINE CALLING

Ephesians 6: 6 not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers,
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7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man,
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EXPECTATION OF REWARD IS BEYOND THIS WORLD...MEANING IN WORK

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back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free.



CHARACTER OF WORK- GOOD FOR SOCIETY

Crooked boss





- **Expectation of reward with God**
- **Unlike masters who promise but do not deliver**
- **This accountability is for all people including the bosses**

THERE WILL BE JUSTICE IN THE END

Colossians 3:23-25 (ESV) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. 25 For

the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.



REDEMPTION OF WORK PLACE RELATIONSHIPS

Liberating because your environment does not control you.

Redeems and Transforms the service of work into the ultimate value

Work is now important

Reward is from God and not necessarily contingent on the manner of the boss or remuneration.

LUTHERS IDEAS ON WORK

Psalms 147:12-14 (ESV) Praise the LORD, O Jerusalem!
Praise your God, O Zion!

13 For he strengthens the bars of your gates; he
blesses your children within you.

14 He makes peace in your borders he fills you with
the finest of the wheat.

strengthens the bars of
your gates



peace in your borders



he fills you with the
finest of the wheat.





**DOROTHY
SAYERS**

DOROTHY SAYERS

1893-1957

- "all work done well and for God's glory is Christian work"

UNBIBLICAL VIEWS OF WORK

Work

Compartmentalised view

Low view

Just to put bread on table but main job is evangelism so it is platform for it

High view

Work defines you. Self worth
Meaning
No relationship to God

Divided view

Clergy vs laity view where the latter is more valuable

Wholistic view

Work is worship

All work is valuable and done to worship Him

ENJOY THE FRUIT OF YOUR TOIL

Ecclesiastes 5:18-20 (ESV) Behold, what I have seen to be good and fitting is to eat and drink and find enjoyment in all the toil with which one toils under the sun the few days of his life that God has given him, for this is his lot. 19 Everyone also to whom God has given wealth and possessions and power to enjoy them, and to accept his lot and rejoice in his toil—this is the gift of God. 20 For he will not much remember the days of his life because God keeps him occupied with joy in his heart.

BOSSES

Ephesians 6:9 Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

The key to bringing the culture and the church back together, to renewing the workplace and reforming the church—may well be a movement of people who are known for their hard work, for the excellence of their effort, for their honesty and unswerving integrity, for their concern for the rights and welfare of people, for the quality of the goods and services produced, for their leadership among coworkers—in short, for their Christ-likeness on and off the job. What could an army of such workers accomplish?

Doug Sherman and William Hendricks "Your Work Matters to God"

THE VALUE OF WORK

1. Through work we serve people.
2. Through work we meet our own needs (2 Thessalonians 3:10-12)
3. Through work we meet our family's needs. (1 Timothy 5:8)
4. Through work we earn money to give to others. (Ephesians 4:28)
5. Through work we love God..Ephesians 6