

Ephesians 6:1-4

A Case Study

Ephesians 6:1-4

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land."

Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Counsel from the naked nugget:

It's right.
Just do it.

(Right...)

1st level of context

Nugget passage in light of its
immediate neighbors

(Ephesians 5:22-6:9, the parallel
passages about husbands and
wives, masters and slaves)

Parallel structures

Husbands	Fathers	Masters
Wives	Children	Slaves

Parallel structures

Husbands	Fathers	Masters
“Love your wives <i>as Christ loves</i> ”	“Train your children <i>in the Lord</i> ”	“You <i>serve Christ, too</i> ”

Parallel structures

Wives	Children	Slaves
“Submit to your husband as to <i>Christ</i> ”		“You are serving <i>Christ himself</i> ”

Parallel structures

Wives	Children	Slaves
“Submit to your husband as to <i>Christ</i> ”	Strange quote from Exodus ???	“You are serving <i>Christ himself</i> ”

How does this piece fit?

“...(this is the first
commandment with a promise),
'that it may go well with you and
that you may live long in the
land.'”

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

The Lord is our master, and we live before him in our roles and interactions with each other.

(And even kids who obey can make a difference!)

So, how will you counsel them?

2nd level of context

Nugget passage in light of the next
level of context:

Ephesians 4:17-5:21

Ephesians 4:17-5:21

The Lord re-creates us,
transforming us into people who
actually can live, act and
interact as Jesus did.

Now how will you counsel
them?

3rd level of context

Nugget passage in light of the next
level of context:

Ephesians 2:11-4:16 and 6:10-17

Ephesians 2:11-4:16 and 6:10-17

The Lord unites us all as one in his body, no matter how different we are or what roles we fill, and our unity is extremely important to him.

Now how will you counsel them?

4th level of context

Nugget passage in light of the next
level of context:

all of Ephesians and
all of redemptive history

All of Ephesians
and all of redemptive history

God redeemed us in order to
display the glorious riches of his
grace, at work in us and in our
relationships.

Now how will you counsel
them?