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Epistle to the Ephesians: Living a Spirit-filled Life in the Home and at Work (6.1-9)

- Covenant Evangelical Reformed Church
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LIVING A SPIRIT-FILLED LIFE IN THE HOME AND AT WORK

- I. In the Home
 - A. General principle - submitting yourselves one to another
 - B. Duties of Children to parents
 1. Obedience and honour
 - a) First, children are to listen to what parents say
 - b) Second, keep what they say, submit or yield
 - c) Third, in this way children honour their parents
 - (1) It includes respect and love
 - (a) Because you are their parents
 - (b) Because it is God who set parents to be over children
 - (2) Submit themselves to their good instruction and due obedience (Q104)
 2. Because this is right & it might be well with you in your life
 - C. Duties of Fathers to their children
 1. Provoke (or exasperate¹) not your children to wrath
 - a) This happens when fathers do not understand the needs of children and so greatly anger them
 - b) By expecting too much from children
 - c) By their persistent absence
 2. Bring them up in the Lord
 - a) To bring them up
 - (1) To nourish, educate, feed, rear or raise them up
 - (a) It is the training, guiding and educating covenant children
 - (b) I am interested in the spiritual aspect; I leave the other aspects to parents
 - (2) In the way of godliness
 - b) By nurture
 - (1) By guidance, instruction, correction, discipline and punishment
 - (2) The biblical necessity for correction
 - (a) The nature of the child demands correction
 - (b) The direction of the child demands correction (Ryle warned parents, p31 of Withhold not Correction, Bruce A. Kay)
 - (c) The responsibility that God has place upon us parents demand that we correct our children
 - (d) The love which we as parents have toward our children demands that correct them
 - (e) The picture Deut. 6.4-9
 - (i) God's Word must first be in the hearts of parents

- (ii) Parents are to teach God's Word to their children
 - (a) How? Diligently or sharpening of swords and arrows
 - (i) The way you teach must be sharp or antithetical or opposite to the world
 - (ii) So that your children can discern error
 - (b) How often? All the time!
- (3) (f) The purpose - to love God with all their heart (De. 6.4, 5)
Specifically
- (a) Personal piety
 - (i) Teach them to memorise the catechism, Word of God
 - (ii) Teach them to pray
 - (iii) Teach them to converse in a godly way
 - (iv) Teach them to evangelise
 - (b) Towards setting up covenant homes
 - (i) Teach sons and daughters to be ready for courtship and marriage
 - (ii) Teach them the biblical view of marriage
 - (a) Marry only in the Lord
 - (b) How to choose godly partners
 - (iii) Teach them to be good husbands and wives; good fathers and mothers
 - (c) Towards the church
 - (i) Teach them to be committed to the church
 - (ii) Guide them to be good and faithful office-bearers and wives of office-bearers, pastors and missionaries
 - (iii) Guide them to have an interest in Reformed Theology
 - (iv) Teach them to keep the Lord's Day
 - (v) Teach them to love the church and the causes of Christ

- c) By admonition
 - (1) Teaching, warning or verbal instruction - training by word of encouragement, reproof, blame
 - (a) Urge and encourage them to be spiritual all their lives
 - (b) Remind them of their sins to repent of their sins and turn to God
 - (2) Warn them of the terrible ways of the Lord
 - (a) Do not be like Eli
 - (i) Who did not restrain them
 - (ii) Who condoned the sins of his children
 - (iii) The Lord's hot displeasure was against his family
- II. At work
- A. Slaves towards their masters
 - 1. About slaves
 - a) The apostle is silent about the abolishing of slavery but taught how slaves should conduct themselves
 - b) The church should not concern themselves with the social conditions of society but with preaching the gospel and living out our Christian life in the midst of this world
 - 2. Obedience
 - a) Not to please men but having the fear of God
 - b) Doing God's will from your heart as slaves of Christ
 - c) You will be rewarded
 - B. Masters to their slaves
 - 1. Cease threatening because you have your master
 - a) Masters threaten because they imagine that they are the only masters and there is no God to over look their shoulders
 - b) That is, fear God and do not abuse your slaves
 - c) God does not respect persons - makes no difference to God if you are a master or slave. You will be punished
 - 2. How does this apply to us? This applies to our employer-employee relationship

¹ Irritate to anger