

EPHESIANS 6:1-9

LESSON 35

Responsible Relationships

1. Ephesians 6:1-3 – Children

- a. Ch. 5-6 is an application of what we learn about the mystery of Christ & the church
- b. Being reconciled becomes our responsibility - 2 Cor 5:17-21, Col 1:21-22, Eph 2:16
- c. The relationships described are instructive for those in the Lord – Eph 5:21
- d. Modern culture presents marriage as a bad choice, but children as a death sentence.
- e. In the Bible, children are a heritage, light, blessing, reward, sign, wonder, fruit, life
- f. *“Children”* – Paul is not addressing parents here. This means children...
 - i. 1- can be saved; 2- can understand; 3- have responsibility; 4- obliged to obey
 - ii. How? *“in the Lord”* – You obey, love, please the Lord - Eph 5:1, Col 3:20
 - iii. Why? *“for this is right”* – not “I said so”, “I’m bigger”, “b/c this is my house”
 - iv. The problem: no fear, no will – Rom 3:18; Lev 19:3; Eph 5:21
- g. *“Honour thy father and mother”* – esteem, dignity, reverence, privilege.
 - i. How to do it wrong: use God as an excuse not to – Matt 15:4-6; 1 Tim 5:3-4
- h. *“first commandment”* – Exo 20:12 - The law is good but we are not under it
 - i. The promise was not made with us – but Gal 6:7 is still true.
 - ii. Paul quotes prophecy and law many times – you must know its place.

2. Ephesians 6:4 – Fathers Raising Children

- a. *“Fathers”* – where are the mothers? In submission to their husbands.
- b. *“provoke not your children to wrath”* – discourage, contempt, abhor, anger – Col 3:21
- c. Hypocritical, favorites, inconsistent, intemperate, unjust, neglect, abuse, no love, care.
- d. *“bring them up”* – The goal is to make full grown adults – not prolong childhood.
- e. *“nurture and admonition”* – The purpose of the family unit.
 - i. Nurture is the expression of love in provision – feed, nourish, educate, bring up.
 - ii. Admonition is the education of discipline, reproof, counsel, and instruction
- f. Qualifications of a good parent are simple – 1Co 4:15; 2Co 1:12, 4:2; Ti 2:7; Gal 4:16-19
- g. A father’s job looks a lot like a bishop’s – 1 Thess 2:11; 1 Tim 3:5; 2 Tim 4:2; 2 Tim 3:16
- h. *“of the Lord”* – Once again our understanding of the mystery of Christ helps here.
- i. *Father’s* exhort to do right not wrong, comfort with courage, charge with responsibility

3. Ephesians 6:5-9 – Servants and Masters

- a. The opposite of service is to taking – service and selfish are antonyms.
- b. *“servants”* – the right word rather than the narrow modern definition of “slave”
- c. These instructions are for people in the Lord who find themselves ... 1 Cor 7:21-22
- d. *“according to the flesh”* – masters in the flesh, are not masters of your soul
- e. *“singleness of your heart”* – not duplicitous, nor murmuring – Phil 2:12-14
- f. The purpose = to adorn the doctrine of God – 1 Tim 6:1-2, Titus 2:9-10
- g. 6:7-8 - *“with good will doing service”* – remember 1 Cor 9:16-17, he receives a reward.
- h. 6:9 - God is not a respecter of persons – would you have God threaten you?

17 Things We Learn About Christ and the Church from Ephesians 5:22-33

Though Paul is addressing wives and husbands their relationship, he speaks concerning the great mystery of Christ and the church in Ephesians 5:22-32.

1. The church ought to submit itself to the Lord Jesus Christ.
2. Christ is the head of the church.
3. Christ is the Saviour of the body.
4. The church is subject to Christ in every thing.
5. Christ loved the church.
6. Christ gave himself for the church.
7. Christ sanctifies the church.
8. Christ cleanses the church with the washing of water by the word.
9. Christ presents the church glorious to himself.
10. Christ makes the church without spot.
11. Christ makes the church without blemish.
12. Christ makes us holy.
13. Christ nourishes the church.
14. Christ cherishes the church.
15. The church consists of members of Christ's body.
16. Christ and the church are one.
17. This relationship between Christ and the church is a great mystery.