

Household Relationships

Lesson 8

Ephesians 5:21 - 6:9

Right attitudes and behavior are important to any relationship if there is to be unity. Paul has already shown how important unity is within the church, the body; he now explains how within the household of the believer it is equally important.

The Home - Ephesians 5:21

To live as children of light, (Ephesians 5:8) one must be "*filled with the Spirit*". (Ephesians 5:18) Moving from the church to the household, Paul addressed the dynamics within their own homes.

1. What was Paul's teaching as the basis for unity within both the church and the household? (Ephesians 5:21a)

2. What reason did he give for this? (Ephesians 5:21b)

Marriage - Ephesians 5:22 - 33

3. Paul began with the wives. Using Ephesians 5:22, 23:
 - To whom is a wife to submit?

 - How?

 - Why?

4. Paul then moved to the husbands. Using Ephesians 5:25:
 - What did he say was of primary importance for a husband?

 - Who is to be his example?

- How was that demonstrated?
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5. Speaking to husbands also as part of the church, Paul reminded them of what Christ did for them. Make a list of what the church has received through Christ.
(Ephesians 5:26 and 27)
 6. How are husbands to love their wives? (Ephesians 5:28)
 7. What else did Paul add to these instructions? (Ephesians 5:29)
 8. Although speaking of marriage, why did Paul say this is important for all believers?
(Ephesians 5:30)
 9. Because of verse 30, what is a couple to do when they marry? (Ephesians 5:31)
 10. Moving back and forth between the marriage relationship and that of the church, what did Paul say is still a mystery? (Ephesians 5:32)
 11. Paul ended his teaching on marriage with one final word. Using verse 33, What did he say to:
 - Husbands:

 - Wives:

Reflect:

12. What happens within a marriage relationship if either of these is missing?

Children and Parents - Ephesians 6:1-4

13. What behavior did Paul emphasize first with children? (Ephesians 6:1a)

14. Why did he emphasize "*in the Lord*"? (Ephesians 6:1b)

15. What else did Paul say children are to do? (Ephesians 6:2a)

16. This is one of the 10 Commandments given by God to Moses in Exodus 20. What did Paul add regarding keeping this commandment? (Ephesians 6:2b, 3)

17. So that this would not be misunderstood or misapplied, what warning did Paul give to the fathers? (Ephesians 6:4a)

18. What were they to do instead? (Ephesians 6:4b)

Slaves and Masters - Ephesians 6:5-9

The culture of the Roman Empire was one of Patron-Client and Master-Slave. Paul did not try to change society but to work within it.

19. When it came to believers who were slaves, how did Paul say they were to obey their masters? (Ephesians 6:5)

20. What did he add regarding this obedience? (Ephesians 6:6)

21. How were they to serve their masters? (Ephesians 6:7)

22. In their difficult position as slaves, of what did Paul remind them? (Ephesians 6:8a)

23. Does this apply only to the slave? (Ephesians 6:8b)

24. What did Paul have to say to those who were masters of slaves? (Ephesians 6:9)

Reflect:

25. How would you summarize this section of unity within the household based on Paul's conclusion, "*and there is no favoritism with Him (the Lord)*"?