

Ephesians 5:22-6:9 – Glorifying God in Our Relationships

22-33 Glorifying God in our Marriages

22-24 The Bride of Christ

25-27 A Sacrificial, Sanctifying Love

28-30 A Nurturing, Cherishing Love

31-33 The Mystery of Marriage

6:1-4 Glorifying God in our Families

6:5-9 Glorifying God in Our Workplaces

Introduction

- Illustration: jokes or kids views on marriage
- relationships are challenging
- God designed us to be relational, doesn't mean it's easy
- hard, because we're selfish, broken, sinful people interacting with others like us
- thankfully God calls us to a better way & gives us the power to live it out
- Ephesians, Shaun mentioned, start big ideas, break them down
- progression from general to more specific, conceptual to practical
- he has chosen us, blessed us, saved us, united us, loved us, empowered us
- he is unifying us in him, transforming us, sanctifying us
- therefore based on all Christ has done for us, how do we live out our Christian walk
- last chapter saw ways of darkness, once lived, turn from, put off, not walk in
- also God's way of light, what we're to put on, walk in, guidelines for Christian conduct
- general relationships, now 3 specific; marriage, family, work
- these will definitely put our Christian walk to the test
- challenging passage, both to hear & preach, try to approach with sensitivity & grace
- also plainly holding forth God's word of truth, not adding or diminishing

22-33 Glorifying God in our Marriages

21-24 The Bride of Christ

Ephesians 5:21-24 - submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

- went back a bit, starting on verse 21, sets tone of whole passage, key verse
- submitting - Greek 'hypotasso' - 'hypo', under, 'tasso', to place (in certain order)
- in our minds, each willingly place ourselves in a subordinate position to other believers
- as a loving act of worship to our Lord & Saviour Jesus, who humbled himself for us
- think of Philippians 2:1-5, *'So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus'*
- as followers of Christ, this attitude of loving humility should govern all our relationships
- nowhere more than in marriage, most significant earthly relationship apart from Christ
- Paul starts by instructing wives to submit to their own husbands
- not most popular verse I realize, one most attacked & challenged verses in the bible
- it's in here so we're going to teach & work through it
- wife's position of submission doesn't mean inferior or lesser in status or abilities
- total opposite, wives able to do pretty much anything husband can, maybe better
- wives definitely do some things that husband's can't, namely childbirth, very grateful
- marriage isn't about competing with each other but completing each other
- it's about roles, God has ordained different roles for husbands and wives in marriage
- wife's role is to submit to her husband, see husband's role later
- we're all called to submit, just in different ways
- word submit different from previous, personal, private, 'your own'
- not be subject to anyone else's husband, only hers

- wives, submit to husband as to the Lord, submitting an act of worship to God
- about obeying & glorifying God through fulfilling role in marriage
- husband's role to be head of wife, leader of house
- God painting bigger picture through marriage, of Jesus and the church
- as the church, the body of Christ submits to Jesus, the head
- so the wife is to submit to her husband, the head of the house
- definitely not easy, husband is not Jesus, more grace, each growing to Christlikeness
- more husband fulfilling his role, easier is for wife to fulfill hers

25-27 A Sacrificial, Sanctifying Love

Ephesians 5:25-27, 'Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.'

- more written to husband's than to wives, greater responsibility
- maybe just need it spelled out more
- greatest & primary task is to love their wives
- not just romantic gestures & words, practical actions, these are still important
- love on a deeper level, self-sacrificial love, like Jesus for us his bride
- he gave up everything, even his life so we might live & have a relationship with him
- husbands are called to do the same for their wives
- willing to give up everything, crucify sin, put to death selfishness & pride
- in order to be a blessing to wife, have a greater, deeper relationship, glorify God
- husband also called to take the spiritual lead in the household, especially God's Word
- do devotions, read the bible himself, read out loud, share & discuss with wife
- in doing do to help in hers & each other's sanctification, growing in Christlikeness
- think of Jesus' words to his disciples in *John 15:3, 'Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you.'*
- God's Word to have purifying effect on us, exposing, cutting out sin, Holy Spirit's help

28-30 A Nurturing, Cherishing Love

Ephesians 5:28-30, 'In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, because we are members of his body.'

- husband's to love and take care of their wives like they would take care of own body
- for the most part we try to take good care of our own bodies, especially with food
- usually think of wives as nurturing ones, generally comes more naturally
- husbands also called to have nurturing, caring love for wives
- look after their well-being, provide for their physical & spiritual nourishment
- consider their needs, to listen, be attentive, encouraging & supportive
- to have a cherishing love, to treasure & esteem them above all others
- to like the parable of hidden treasure, to give everything to obtain the treasure
- exactly what Jesus has done for us, he sacrificed everything for us, his treasure
- he's our Good Shepherd, who leads us, provides for us, & protects us
- husbands, if asked would your wife say she feels nurtured & cherished
- wives, if your husband loved you in this way, would it make it easier to submit
- really the responsibility falls on the husband to take the lead

1 John 4:10, 'In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.'

- if we're imitating Christ, we didn't love him first, he loved us first, we must do also
- guys it's a high bar, but that's good, we're created to rise up to the challenge
- we won't do it perfectly, we'll make mistakes, doesn't negate wife's role
- we really need the Holy Spirit's help to be humble & show lots of grace to each other

31-33 The Mystery of Marriage

Ephesians 5:31-33, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- one of the criticisms of the biblical teachings on marriage are that it's mostly cultural
- merely follows the culture of the time, but that's now outdated & antiquated
- interestingly the NT writers & Jesus himself always goes back to beginning
- to Genesis, where God instituted marriage back in Eden with Adam & Eve
- proves teaching on marriage not cultural, transcends culture, no culture, two people
- God's word is always relevant, God hasn't changed, fallen human nature not changed
- mystery of marriage & church intertwined, illustrating God's masterpiece
- husband & wife become one flesh; church, the bride of Christ is united in him
- God's plan & design for marriage is the best one, knows our needs better than we do
- husbands to love their wives as themselves, women have deep inbuilt need to feel loved
- wives to respect their husbands, men have deep inbuilt need to feel respected
- let us seek to humbly submit to Christ & each other & glorify God through our marriages

6:1-4 Glorifying God in our Families

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.

- seems pretty self-explanatory, children obey your parents, honour your parents
- not so simple though, something about kids, always like to push the rules
- inbuilt, don't have to train them to disobey, do it naturally
- funny looking back on my own childhood from perspective as a parent
- younger, obedient for most part, some issues, struggled with anger, emotions
- teenager, totally off the rails, rebelled big time, wild, angry & defiant
- eventually took my mom's death when I was 16 to shock me, bring me back to God

- remember before, thought I knew so much, parents knew nothing
- now I see they were incredibly patient, didn't know what to do, but trying their best
- newfound respect now I'm a parent of multiple teenagers, realize they were right
- I would have saved myself a lot of pain & problems if I would have listened & obeyed
- children instructed to obey their parents, why, it's the right thing to do, pleases God
- part of God's design, roles in family, while under their roof, children to obey parents
- right for children to obey because teaches them to follow rules
- part of living in society following rules (seems to be happening less lately)
- rules there generally keep us safe, like guardrails, where else learn but at home
- most importantly, learn to obey God's holy rules, raise up godly offspring
- much harder time learning to obey God if haven't learned to obey parents
- right because believe it or not, parent's do know stuff, have some wisdom & experience
- good idea to listen to parental advice, save yourself from potential problems (like me)
- obeying parents generally applies while living under their roof & before adulthood
- children to honour their parents their whole lives
- 5th commandment (Deut. 5:16), has promise, things will go well, long life
- short term fulfillment, if not honour parents as child, things not go well, face discipline
- honouring parents, honours God, pleases him when we obey, how we show our love
- demonstrates wisdom & a right heart attitude, good foundation
- honour by respecting them, listening to them, treating them well, taking care, helping
- maybe upbringing wasn't good, hard to honour parents, maybe honour by forgiving them
- fathers again take the lead role in parenting, set the tone
- not to provoke children to anger, exasperate them (that's the kids job)
- again be spiritual leader, discipline & teach them the ways of the Lord
- discipline – Greek, '*paideia*', Thayer's Greek lexicon defines it as; *the whole training and education of children (which relates to the cultivation of mind and morals, and employs for this purpose now commands and admonitions, now reproof and punishment) It also includes the training and care of the body*
- dads to be actively involved in all aspects of raising kids, not leave it all to wife
- glorify God, raising godly, functional, respectful, responsible kids, send out into world

6:5-9 Glorifying God in Our Workplaces

Ephesians 6:5-9, Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. 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.

- last significant relationship is at workplace, employee & employer
- place where we'll probably spend most of our waking adult lives at
- bondservant – Greek 'doulos', one in position of servitude, voluntary or involuntary
- when written, this would refer to actual slaves, common in Roman empire
- today, employee, basically while at work, position voluntary service to employer
- *'with fear and trembling, used to describe the anxiety of one who distrusts his ability completely to meet all requirements, but religiously does his utmost to fulfil his duty'*
- work hard & diligently not for eye-service or just a people pleaser on the surface
- working hard when boss around, slacking off when he's gone (Undercover Boss)
- work as unto Christ, striving to please him & do his will
- we're ultimately his bondservants, he is our true master
- whatever we do, work, school, parenting, we are to do as service for the Lord
- while we receive a paycheque as reward for our work here, temporary
- we can look forward to an eternal reward from God for whatever we do for him here
- those who are employers are to also do their jobs for Christ, to serve & please him
- they are not to be harsh or threatening with their employees
- knowing they have a master & judge in heaven who we're all ultimately accountable to
- let's seek to humbly & diligently serve Christ through our work & bring glory to God
- God designed us to be relational, with each other, relationship with God through Jesus
- why we're created, purpose of knowing, worshipping & glorifying God, made complete
- the devil wants to destroy & undo anything that God creates, specifically relationships
- we need God's help, see next passage how to stand strong against the enemy's attacks