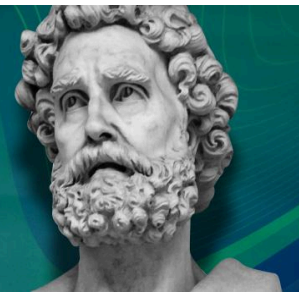




EPHESIANS

SIT, WALK, STAND



EPHESIANS | GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (Week #4)

GET STARTED

- Choose one (or use all 3):
 - **If you are married, what is one memorable moment from your wedding day?**
 - **What is your favorite TV family? Why?**
 - **What was your very first job, and describe what it was like?**

TAKE IT IN

- **What encouraged and/or challenged you from the message this week? Why?**

TALK IT OVER

Read Ephesians 5:21-33 & Philippians 2:1-8

- Paul is about to unpack 3 sets of relationships, and Ephesians 5:21 sets the foundation. Using Jesus's example, Philippians 2:1-8 gives us the definition on what submission is supposed to look like. **Using Philippians 2:1-8, how would you define what it means to submit one another out of reverence for Christ?**
- With the definition of submission in mind, look back at Ephesians 5:21-33. **If you are married, practically what does mutual submission look like in your relationship? If you are single, how does the idea of mutual submission impact your friendships/relationships?**
- While talking about marriage, Paul uses Jesus's relationship with the Church (believers) as the example to follow. **What do you learn about how Jesus loves the church from this passage? How does this change or reinforce the way you view the church? Individually or as a group, How can you better love and serve your local church?**
- The sacrificial love that comes from submitting to one another, puts the needs and interests of others first. Oftentimes, we can be unwilling to put others first, especially when we feel they are undeserving or aren't living up to their end of the bargain. **Why would Paul be so adamant about wanting couples imitating Christ by submitting to each other? If you are married, what is one next step you need to take this week to ensure your spouse is loved and respected? If you are single, how can you practice the sacrificial love of Jesus in your friendships/relationships this week?**

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

- If you are a parent, many times you read this section of Scripture wishing that your kids could hear these words. But, we are all still kids to our parents. **Practically what does it look like to**

“honor your father and mother” as an adult?

- The word for exasperate (or provoke) means “to bring to anger.” This is not a one time event, but a long term problem. It creates a picture of parents squeezing the hope out of children. **In what ways could parents be “exasperating” or “provoking” their children? If you are a parent, how can you ensure that your discipline and guidance are given in a way that builds up rather than frustrates/discourages your children?**
- Paul encourages parents to actively nurture their kids in the "training and instruction of the Lord." **As a kid, did you experience this from your parents? If you are a parent (or grandparent), how are you incorporating biblical teachings into your daily family life? What resources or practices have been helpful in nurturing the spiritual growth of your family?**

Read Ephesians 6:5-9

Commentary Note: This passage discusses the relationship between slave/servants and masters. Slavery was common in the time of the New Testament. Many people sold themselves into slavery for a certain period of time to get out of debt. But, there were also slaves captured through times of war. Many believers in the early church were slaves, and it is a big deal that Paul addresses them directly. The tough question is why doesn't he tell masters to free their slaves. In short, Paul is more interested in changing people than society. At the same time, the impact of changing people is a changed society. Which Christianity did by bringing value to women, kids, and slaves in a culture that did not.

- This section of Scripture is often applied to our working relationships. Ephesians 6:5 talks about obeying and respecting those in authority. **How can you apply this principle in your work relationships, and what challenges might you face in doing so?**
- Verse 7 encourages us to work wholeheartedly. **Would this describe the way you work? What about the way you serve your family? How can this perspective change the way we approach our daily tasks and responsibilities? What impact might it have on our work ethic and relationships?**

LIVE IT OUT

The call to "submit to one another out of reverence for Christ," invites us into a transformative way of approaching our relationships (marriage, family, friendships, work, etc...) with the humility and love of Jesus. By choosing to put others first and serve, you can reflect Jesus in a way that can transform your environment. Think about your current relationships. Where are you struggling right now? Spend time praying over this relationship and ask God to help you love sacrificially this week. For more guidance on the relationships of marriage, family, and work, check out these recommendations...

Love & Respect by Emerson Eggerch
Habits of the Household by Justin Earley
Every Good Endeavor by Timothy Keller

Memorize:

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” Ephesians 5:21