



OUR RELATIONSHIPS

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– 1 Corinthians 7:6-11, 25-35 – January 8, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

Real Relationships – Les and Leslie Parrott – <https://bit.ly/3GiB5BN>

The goal of this time is to have quality connections and time together. Allow God to speak to you through His written Word. Choose questions from Know, Grow, and Show that will best help your group discuss the passage and take their next steps of faith. Don't feel like you need to use all the questions. We are praying for you as you lead your D-Group this week!

KNOW:

- Have you made any New Year's resolutions? What are they? How are they going?
- What was the highlight of the holidays? How was this Christmas unique or special?
- How would you describe singleness through the eyes of our culture?
- How are you hoping to grow in your relationship with Jesus in 2023? What practices, resources, and disciplines are you using?
- How are we as a D-Group wanting to grow over the next few months together? Are there relational things we can be more intentional about? Serving together? Any studies we want to do together?



GROW:

- Read 1 Corinthians 7:6-8. Twice Paul states that he wishes everyone would remain single, and he calls singleness a “gift.” What does this mean? How is singleness a gift? For those who are single, do you consider your singleness to be a gift or a curse? Have you made an idol out of marriage?
- What does Paul mean when he says married people are divided or filled with anxieties about the world?
- What reason does Paul give in verse 29 for the advice he has just given? How does that reason work for those of us who are married today in 2015?
- Why does Paul say that the unmarried state is preferable to the married state? See 1 Corinthians 7:32-35.
- How does viewing singleness as a display of the gospel—our ultimate identity in Christ and identification with the Church—change the way you value singleness?
- What does it mean to delight in singleness? How can singleness be an advantage over marriage in many contexts?
- Consider Isaiah 54:1 and 56:4-5, and Matthew 19:10-12. Using these verses, describe God’s design for singleness.



SHOW:

- If you’re single, what are some things you wish that married couples in the church knew about being single in the 21st century? What are some steps the church can take to grow in being brothers and sisters in Christ?
- If you’re married, what are some ways you were able to serve the Lord as a single? What are some unique ways you can serve the Lord as a married couple?
- How are you pursuing gratitude in your heart for where God has you whether single or married? What specific things are you thankful for?

OUR RELATIONSHIPS EPHESIANS



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Ephesians 5:22-33 – January 15, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

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KNOW:

- How was your concept of marriage shaped as you grew up? What opinions and ideas did you learn about marriage from the people you were around as a child and even early into adulthood?
- Was your parents' marriage a good marriage? What are your memories?
- What are the pressures a marriage is subject to?
- Is there a couple in your life now or previously that model strong Biblical marriage to you? Describe them to your group.
- What are the pros and cons of being married?
- In today's culture the individual has a central position, my feelings, thoughts, world perspective and actions are the only thing that matters. Is there any other option? (Ephesians 5:21; Galatians 5:13, Philippians 2:3).



GROW:

- Submitting is not a natural response, but those who have submitted to Christ and call him Lord- meaning, He exercises absolute ownership rights- have experienced “the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect”. (Romans 12:2). Is this a model to imitate in our relationships, particularly marriage?
- Consider the culture in Ephesus where a goddess influenced their actions. What was their concept of this goddess? Consider Acts 19:27. The wisdom of God is reflected in Ephesians 5:22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord”.
- Satan likes to distort the sacred things of God and either make them less than what God intended or sometimes more important than God intended. In what ways has he made marriage less than what God intended in our culture today? Can you see any ways – maybe especially in the church or in the south – that we have made the goal and idea of marriage *more* than what God intended? Think back to Brandon’s message on singleness and look back at 1 Corinthians 7:6-7.
- If someone were to ask you about the purpose of marriage, what would you say? Discuss this with your group and see if you can come up with a simple, clear, Biblical statement on God’s purpose for marriage so that you would be ready to have an encouraging discussion with someone if that opportunity arises. Consider Justin’s message and consult these verses for help: Genesis 2:18, 24; Ephesians 5:23-30.



SHOW:

- Do your actions as a wife or husband reflect the values of your culture or the wisdom of God?
- Whatever your marital status, how could you allow God to use you to glorify Him and elevate a Biblical view of marriage and encourage others?
- Marriage is hard. When we encounter hard times, we can think things like, “I married the wrong person” or “I think this marriage has run its course and it’s over.” What is a Biblical perspective on the hard times in marriage? Consider 1 Peter 4:8, John 16:33, Matthew 19:4-6, Ephesians 4:2-3, Romans 5:3-4.



OUR RELATIONSHIPS

EPHESIANS

Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Ephesians 5:22-33 – January 22, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

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KNOW:

- If you were describing to a non-Christian friend how your relationship with God changed the relationships in your life, what would you say?
- What husband-and-wife team do you greatly admire? Why do you admire them and their marriage? What characteristics about their marriage stick out to you?
- In your view, what one quality or ability sustains a marriage relationship? Why does that quality have such a big impact on the health of the marriage?
- Why would unselfishness be an essential part of a Christian marriage?
- How does a healthy Christian marriage relationship honor the Lord? How does this impact those closest to the husband and wife?
- How is the biblical view of marital leadership different from society? What is or should be distinctive about a Christian marriage?



GROW:

- What service should wives render to the Lord? (5:22)
- What is the relationship of the husband to the wife? (5:23)
- How is the relationship of the church to Christ an example to wives in a relationship with their husbands? (5:24)
- How are husbands commanded to love their wives? (5:25) What are some examples of a husband loving their wife in this way?
- How did Christ prepare a bride for Himself? (5:26-27)
- Are Paul's instructions to husbands and wives interchangeable? Why or why not?
- How is the bond between husband and wife greater than the bond between parent and child? (5:31)
- Which is easier for you to do: to sacrifice yourself or to submit yourself?
- How does the bond between Christ and the church illustrate the love of a husband for his wife? (5:32)
- If you are happily unmarried, or unhappily married, how does Ephesians 5:32 help you not make too much of human marriage?
- How does Christ transform a marriage relationship?



SHOW:

- How does a relationship with Christ transform relationships in our lives?
- Which of these instructions is most difficult for you to hear and obey? Why?
- What is something you can do to help a Christian couple strengthen their marriage?
- How can you treat your spouse with more respect and love this week?
- What may God be asking you to change, do differently, repent of, pray about as a result of engaging with this passage?

OUR RELATIONSHIPS EPHESIANS



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Parenting - Ephesians 6:1-4 – January 29, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

Real Relationships – Les and Leslie Parrott – <https://bit.ly/3GiB5BN>

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KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships)*

- Who in your life has been a great role model for you in setting an example of good parenting?
- What is your perspective of society's view of parenting?
- When was a time when you deliberately dishonored/disobeyed your parent(s)?
- How did your parents encourage you? How was their encouragement impactful (or not) when you were a child?
- What are some of the enjoyable aspects of being a parent?
- Without the gospel, we will default to the way we were raised or allow the culture to form our parenting. How were you raised, and is it consistent with the gospel? What do you need to be cautious of as you parent?



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually)*

- Read Eph 6:1-4. Why is it important to set a Christlike example for your children?
- What motivations, goals, and hope do believers have when we care for children?
- What does the passage say about honoring parents? Considering the personalities of our children, what would be the best way to teach this principle to them?
- What does it mean to "honor your father and mother"? (Ephesians 6:2-3)
- What is the role (responsibility) of a child in the home? Why did God give a child this role in the home?
- What is the role of the parent in the home? How does not knowing one's role as a parent affect the home?
- How can parents "exasperate" (verse 4) (provoke to anger) their children? How is the condition of the heart related to this?
- How can being committed to our marriages and family relationships impact kids? How can it impact the workplace? Or other relationships?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- How do you practically live out the gospel in front of your children?
- How can you avoid exasperating your children? How do you encourage them?
- What can you do to improve or strengthen your relationship with your parents? How can you honor and show appreciation to our parents today, no matter how imperfect they may have been?
- How can you avoid exasperating your children? How do you need to nurture healthy family relationships this week?

OUR RELATIONSHIPS EPHESIANS



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Parenting Part 2 - Ephesians 6:1-4 – February 5, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

Real Relationships – Les and Leslie Parrott – <https://bit.ly/3GiB5BN>

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KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships)*

- What Christlike examples of parenting have been important for you in your life? How were those parental examples impactful on you?
- How has your perspective on parenting changed over time?
- Why is it important for parents to be Christlike examples for their children?
- What is something you wish you knew years ago about parenting that you would tell your former, younger self?
- How has parenting a child or being parented yourself, influenced your relationships with Jesus? Why?
- What was something from the panel discussion that was most helpful for you? What was something you were challenged by?



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually)*

- What hopes and dreams to Christians parents have for their children that are different than non-Christians?
- How is 'honor' different from 'obey'? "Obey" is translated from the Greek word *Hupakouo* – (to listen, to submit, to be obedient). "Honor" is *Timao* - (to estimate, fix the value, to revere, venerate).
- Is it possible for a child to obey and not honor their parents? Is it possible to honor and not obey?
- What is the promise that is associated with the command here (Ephesians 6:2-3)? How does obedience relate to having a good life and living long? See Ex.20:1-17 and Deut. 5:6-21.
- What are three things fathers are told to do in Ephesians 6:4?
- What does it mean not to 'provoke your children to anger?' How does it happen. Share an incident from your life if possible, you provoked or were provoked. How could those same situation be handled better?
- Whose responsibility is it to discipline and correct children? Why is that important?
- What do these verses teach us about honoring our parents? How can parents teach their children about honor?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- How can we have both the character and the content of Jesus' parenting? How does Jesus inform our current parenting?
- How can parents teach their children the basic doctrines of the scriptures and the gospel? What are some practical ways?
- It has been said that the home is a proving ground for the sincerity of our faith. What is your home reflecting about you? Your family?
- If we desire our children to love and follow God, what steps should we be taking today in order to see this become a reality? Ps.103:2, Ps. 150:6.

OUR RELATIONSHIPS EPHESIANS



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Work Part 1 - Ephesians 6:5-9 – February 12, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

Real Relationships – Les and Leslie Parrott – <https://bit.ly/3GiB5BN>

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KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships)*

- What kind of work ethic was modeled for you as a child?
- If you were a supervisor or manager or team leader, how would you get those you supervise to be more productive?
- As an employee or team member, do you work hard only when the boss is around? Explain.
- Who was your best boss/manager and why?
- What are some ways that our culture has twisted God's design for work and turned it into an unhealthy version of work?
- It's easy for us to think that work is part of the curse that came on humanity when Adam and Eve sinned in the garden when God gave them work before the fall happened. (Gen. 2:15) God designed work to be good and necessary. Why do you think He created work for us? What benefits does it bring?



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually)*

- Why did Paul tell bondservants to obey their masters "with fear and trembling"? (6:5)
- How was Jesus the obedient Servant and the best Master?
- How does Paul teach masters to lead?
- What responsibilities did bondservants have to their masters? (6:5-8)
- How should the gospel transform the motivation of bondservants doing their work according to the passage? How could bondservants serve the Lord while working for their masters? (6:5-8)
- What do you think a Biblical balance of rest and work looks like? Consult Exodus 20:8-10 and discuss the importance of rest in our lives not just as humans but also as believers.
- Why did Paul warn masters against abusing their bondservants? (6:9) How does God view rank or social status?
- In your current situation – whatever your work may look like in this season – do you find it easy or difficult to “render service with a good will” like Ephesians 5:7 instructs? What makes it easy or more difficult?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- Explain how this passage should change the way we work and the way we relate people?
- How are you leading yourself and the people under you?
- How can you improve your attitude toward someone you work with?
- What opportunities do you see through your job for you to bring glory to God even in indirect ways?
- As you think about the last question, choose one thing that you could focus on this week to bring glory to God through your work. Share that with your group and then come back next week ready to report how it went!

OUR RELATIONSHIPS EPHESIANS



Sermon Discussion Curriculum – Our Relationships– Conclusion - Ephesians 6:10-24 – February 19, 2023

Additional Resources:

Building Successful Relationships – Michael & Laura Fletcher – <https://bit.ly/3Qgt7O9>

Healing Relationships – Robby Angle – <https://bit.ly/3ZbQnRt>

Real Relationships – Les and Leslie Parrott – <https://bit.ly/3GiB5BN>

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KNOW: *(Questions for Building Relationships)*

- What have you learned from this study of Ephesians that has affected you the most?
- How do you normally react to unanswered prayers? How do you react to answered prayers?
- Do you bring specific prayer requests to God for others? Do you honestly share what is going on in your life so that others can pray for you? Which is more difficult for you?
- How can this group improve how we pray for one another? What are some practical ways we can be more intentional in this way?
- Who is the strongest person you know/knew? (Either physically/ emotionally/ mentally) What made that person strong in your eyes?



GROW: *(Questions for Growing Spiritually)*

- Read Ephesians 6:10-24. What does this passage teach us about how to see life?
- What are the pieces of armor explained in this passage?
- Why is it important for Christians to take up the armor of God? What happens if they don't take up the armor of God?
- Paul repeats “all” four times in Eph. 6:18. What does each “all” say about the priority that prayer should have in the believer’s life?
- What are the two things he asks God for the brethren in Ephesians 6:23? What do these terms mean?
- How does the call to “keep alert with all perseverance” give a greater understanding of the war strategy of the Devil?
- What does Paul ask for in Ephesians 6:24? What does this word mean?
- How do grace and the love of Jesus relate to each other?



SHOW: *(Questions for Living on Mission)*

- How can a believer be faithful to pray for “all the saints?” Give some practical ideas.
- What challenges you most from studying Ephesians? How is God's Word changing you?
- What are areas in your life you need to intentionally take up the armor of God?
- If we are indeed in a spiritual battle described in this passage, how might a wartime mentality affect how you live your life?
- Going back to last week, what opportunities have you seen through your job for you to bring glory to God even in indirect ways?