

Sunnyside Church Study Questions

Series: Made for More

Sermon: Seek the Spirit's guidance in family & work relationships

Speaker: Pastor DJ Vick

Ephesians 6:1-9

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise— ³ "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶ Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷ Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

⁹ And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him."

Questions:

#1. For review, can you recall the 4 key identity statements for us in Christ for Eph. 1:1-14?

Hint: Chosen – Adopted – Redeemed - & Marked (Sealed)

Why are these significant for us to remember?

#2. What role do love and respect play in all the relationships in your life? How are love and respect similar and how are they different? Provide, if possible, an example with those your with.

#3. What are the instructions to children (minors) in this passage? Why is this so important? For reference to this commandment, please read Exodus 20:12; Deut. 5:16. (Was it hard for you to obey your parents growing up? **For minors:** Is it hard for you to obey your parent(s)? Why or why not?

#4. What are the instructions to fathers in this passage? Discipline was known to be excessive in Greco-Roman world (original audience to Ephesus). “Paul is among the minority of ancient writers who seem to disapprove of excessive discipline.” (IVP Bible Background Commentary). How can (or does) excessive discipline cause a child to “exasperate or embittered”?

- A. How is discipline different than punishment? Provide an example for clarity of those in your discussion group.

From DJ’s sermon notes (help with verses 5-9):

For the record, I hate that slavery is a part of history, and our country’s history. I hate that it had to be in the Bible, however it was part of the culture, part of the Greco-Roman household, so Paul had to address. Paul & Scripture repeatedly states that all people, in the sight of God, are created EQUAL.

IVP Bibel Background Commentary: “... even *a violent revolution* could not have ended slavery in the Roman Empire. Paul confronts the practical issue of how slaves can deal with their situation, not whether slavery should be abolished (an issue not relevant to his point in the context of household codes).”

#5. In verses 5-8, what are some practical take aways for those of us under any kind of authority (teacher, coach, boss, etc.)? Where are you being challenged to put this into practice?

#6. In verse 9, what is Paul (inspired by the Holy Spirit) reminding those of us in leadership of any kind? Where are you being challenged to put this into practice?