

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



10. Godly Relationships

Introduction

One of the most important things in our lives is our relationships. In Ephesians 4 and 5 Paul has been speaking about our walk as believers in Jesus Christ. He speaks about the old life we are to 'put off' and the new life we are to 'put on'. Now, however, he goes on and deals with our relationships.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:21-6:9

1. Our relationships with one another 5:21

- † What does it really mean to 'submit to one another'? How does that apply to a relationship between someone in a more senior position, and someone in a junior position? *(It could be in the work place, the church, school or university.)*

2. The relationships between husbands and wives 5:22-33

- † Paul addresses wives first and tells them to honour their husbands and submit to them. Why do you think it is important for wives to do this?
- † Husbands are told 3 times to love their wives. Why do you think they need to be reminded so many times?

3. The relationships between children and parents 6:1-4

- † Sadly in this world we are seeing great rebellion and disregard for authority. And it begins in the home! What are the 'ingredients' to raise Godly children? Share from these verses and also from your experience.

4. The relationships between employees and employers 6:5-9

- † Although Paul is writing about the relationship between slaves and their masters, how do these verses apply today to our relationships with employers? Discuss.

Conclusion

It is wonderful to know we have been saved by grace and we are now seated with Christ in Heavenly places. However we are living here on earth! We are living with others! The blessings we have received should make a difference to our relationships with those around us. This is really the proof that our relationship with God is genuine. As it says in 1 John, "Whoever loves his brother lives in the light." "If anyone obeys his word, God's love is truly made complete in him. This is how we know we are in him."