

Walk in the Spirit

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

Lesson 20

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. How are you inspired by last week's study to *walk circumspectly*?

2. God desires to be glorified in every area of our lives – even in our interpersonal relationships! It is in these close ties that God's grace can be manifested. Though God's ways are not always the easiest, they are always the best. In Isaiah 55:9a God says, *For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways.* God also promises the grace and strength to do His will. *For it is God who works in you both to will and to do for His good pleasure* (Philippians 2:13).

In Ephesians 5:22-6:9 Paul wrote about the attitude and order God desires in our interpersonal relationships. Read the passages below and record a key thought or instruction from each:

- a. Ephesians 5:22-24

 - b. Ephesians 5:25-33

 - c. Ephesians 6:1-4

 - d. Ephesians 6:5-9
3. Ask the Lord to help you do His will from your heart.

As bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.

Ephesians 6:6

SECOND DAY: Read Ephesians 5:22–24

1. From Ephesians 5:22a record Paul's instruction to *wives*.
 - a. Pastor David Guzik says, *Submission does not mean inferiority. As well, submission does not mean silence. Submission means 'sub-mission.'* There is a mission for the Christian marriage, and that mission is obeying and glorifying God. The wife says, 'I'm going to put myself under that mission. That mission is more important than my individual desires. I'm not putting myself below my husband, I'm putting myself below the mission God has for our marriage, for my life.' How do you see a godly marriage as a mission?
 - b. To Whom are *wives* to do this? Ephesians 5:22b
 - (1) Link this with Colossians 3:23–24. What do you see?
 - b. What is the reason given to *submit*? Ephesians 5:23a
 - a. Who is the *head* of the church according to Ephesians 5:23b?
 - (1) List the order of authority presented in 1 Corinthians 11:3.
 - (2) Order does not imply inferiority. Why is order important?
 - b. What further role does Christ fulfill to *the body*? Ephesians 5:23c
 - c. From the following verses comment on the divine purpose of submission:
 - (1) Colossians 3:18
 - (2) 1 Peter 3:1
2. Why do you think it is important for the church to be *subject to Christ*? Ephesians 5:24a
 - a. How should the relationship of a Christian wife to her *husband* reflect the church's relationship to Jesus?
3. Why does God ask Christian *wives* to submit to their *husbands*?

THIRD DAY: Read Ephesians 5:25–33

1. From Ephesians 5:25a record Paul's charge to *husbands*.
 - a. The word for *love* used here is *agape*, which can be defined as self-denying love based on choice, not expecting anything in return. What was Paul conveying to *husbands*?
 - b. Use Ephesians 5:25b to describe how Christ demonstrated His *love* for His church.
 - (1) How does this complement the wife's role of submission?
2. Why did Christ give *Himself* for the church? Ephesians 5:26
 - a. What is the powerful effect of *the word*?
3. According to Ephesians 5:27, what does Christ desire to *present*?
 - a. Link this with Jude 24 and Revelation 19:6–8. Share your thoughts.
4. With Christ's example in mind, Paul once again exhorted *husbands*. Read Ephesians 5:28 and comment on Paul's exhortation.
5. From Ephesians 5:29–30 identify the reason Paul gave for *husbands to love their own wives*.
6. Record the command from Genesis 2:24 reiterated by Paul in Ephesians 5:31.
 - a. How does this underscore the value of marriage?
 - b. What does Ephesians 5:32 add to this truth?
7. Cite the two principles of marriage Paul re-emphasized in Ephesians 5:33.
 - a. Why do you think God's order is essential to a Christian marriage?

FOURTH DAY: Read Ephesians 6:1-4

1. After addressing *husbands* and *wives*, Paul dealt with other family relationships. What was his exhortation to *children*? Ephesians 6:1
 - a. In Ephesians 6:2 Paul quoted one of the Ten Commandments. Record this *commandment* from Exodus 20:12.
 - b. Print the *promise* of this commandment from Ephesians 6:3.
 - (1) How is this *promise* a great motivation for *children*?
2. *Fathers* is a general term and can be translated *parents*. According to Ephesians 6:4a, what are parents not to do?
 - a. This refers to overly harsh discipline or a critical attitude. Link this with Colossians 3:21. What do you see?
 - b. Rather, what are *fathers* (parents) to do? Ephesians 6:4b
 - (1) Use the following Scriptures to comment on parenting:
 - (a) Deuteronomy 6:7
 - (b) Psalm 78:4-7
 - (c) Proverbs 22:6
3. How do you see the principles of Ephesians 6:1-4 as beneficial to:
 - a. our society
 - b. your family or you personally

FIFTH DAY: Read Ephesians 6:5-9

1. *Bondservants* referred to those who voluntarily submitted to their *masters*. How could this compare with the employer/employee relationship that exists today? Ephesians 6:5
 - a. How did Paul distinguish these *masters* from our heavenly Master? Ephesians 6:5a
 - (1) What does this convey about the limitations of earthly *masters*? See Luke 12:4.
2. List the marks of Christian servants from Ephesians 6:5:
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
3. How are *bondservants* not to serve? Ephesians 6:6a
 - a. By contrast, how should they serve? Ephesians 6:6b
4. From Ephesians 6:6c-7 note the type of attitude the Christian is to have.
 - a. How would you encourage someone to have this attitude? See also Philippians 2:5-8.
5. What should *bondservants* keep in mind? Ephesians 6:8
 - a. Connect this with Matthew 6:4. Share your thoughts.
6. Use Ephesians 6:9 (NLT) to comment on the proper conduct of *masters*: *Treat your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and He has no favorites.*
 - a. Link this with James 5:4. What do you see?
7. In what area of your life can you apply the principles you studied today?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. In Paul's instructions concerning interpersonal relationships, he continually pointed to the Lord as our motivation. Find the phrase that Paul used to identify our spiritual motivation in the following relationships:
 - a. *wives* - Ephesians 5:22

 - b. *husbands* - Ephesians 5:25

 - c. *children* - Ephesians 6:1

 - d. *fathers* - Ephesians 6:4

 - e. *bondservants* - Ephesians 6-8

 - f. *masters* - Ephesians 6:9

2. How have you been challenged by your lesson this week?

*Knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord,
whether he is slave or free.
Ephesians 6:8*