

***Ephesians***  
***Part X***

*Chapter 5:22-6:9*

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# *Flow of Ephesians*

## Ch 1-3

### Blessings

- Chosen/predestined
- Redeemed
- Sealed w/H.S.
- Made alive
- Gift of grace
- Salvation for Gentiles
- Understand Mystery
- Fellowship
- Grounded in love
- Power!

Therefore



## Ch 4-6

### Walk Worthy

- Unity through humility
- Equipped
- Learn Christ
- Put off-Put on
- Imitate God
- Do not be partakers with evil
- Godly Relationships

## **Ephesians 4:1**

*I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called...*

# Relational Struggles from the Beginning

Adam & Eve – blame others for their sin (Gen 3)

Cain & Able – jealousy, hatred & murder (Gen 4:8)

Lamech – 2 wives, murder for being wounded (Gen 4:23)

**Gen 6:5** Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man *was* great in the earth, and *that* every intent of the thoughts of his heart *was* only evil continually.

People not off to good start relationally....

## **Exodus 20:3-17**

1. "You shall have no other gods before Me.
2. "You shall not make for yourself a carved image
3. "You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain
4. "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy.
5. "Honor your father and your mother
6. "You shall not murder.
7. "You shall not commit adultery.
8. "You shall not steal.
9. "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
10. "You shall not covet your neighbor's \_\_\_\_\_"

God gave commandments that deal specifically and directly with relationships  
Jesus gave ultimate teachings and examples of Godly relationships

## **Eph 5:22-33 Husbands & Wives**

**Eph 5:22** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. 24 Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. 25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, 26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 27 that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. 28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. 30 For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. 31 "FOR THIS REASON A MAN SHALL LEAVE HIS FATHER AND

## Eph 5:22-33 Husbands & Wives

MOTHER AND BE JOINED TO HIS WIFE, AND THE TWO SHALL BECOME ONE FLESH." 32 This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church. 33 Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

- Wives –submit (vs22) and respect (vs33) husband
- Husbands –love wife as yourselves (yikes)
- Can't require submission or love...it must be given.
- NT marriage anchored to original marriage law Gen 2:24
- Marriage is the model relationship for Christ and the church

Text Preface: **Eph 5:21** submitting to one another in the fear of God.

- Fear of God moves us to Godly relationships

### Sister Passage

**Col 3:18** Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. 19 Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them.

# Render to Your Spouse

**1 Cor 7:1** Now concerning the things of which you wrote to me: It is good for a man not to touch a woman. 2 Nevertheless, because of sexual immorality, let each man have his own wife, and let each woman have her own husband. 3 Let the husband render to his wife the affection due her, and likewise also the wife to her husband. 4 The wife does not have authority over her own body, but the husband does. And likewise the husband does not have authority over his own body, but the wife does.

- “Render” –G591: to give away; give, pay, restore, reward
- “Affection” –G2132: kindness, good will, favor, well disposed, benevolence
  - Other translations – benevolence, proper kindness, conjugal rights, marital duty, that which is due/deserved
- Literally: Give away kindness and favor
- Marriage is a giving relationship!

# God is a Husband to Jews

**Jer 31:31** "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah; 32 not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.

**Isa 54:5** For your Maker is your husband, The LORD of hosts is His name; And your Redeemer is the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth.

- God has been using the marriage illustration for some time

# Christ's Marriage to the Church

**Eph 5:32** This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Hebrew weddings consisted of three phases:

1. betrothal (often when the couple is young)
2. presentation (the festivities, often lasting several days, that preceded the ceremony)
3. ceremony (the exchanging of vows).

**2 Cor 11:2** For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

- Church is in the betrothal period

**Eph 5:27** that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

**John 14:3** And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

# Christ's Marriage to the Church

**Rev 19:6** And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! 7 Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

**Rev 21:1** Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

- This is indeed a great mystery!
- Church is promised to Christ to be presented as a pure bride in due time.
  - "...the Holy Spirit of promise who is the guarantee of our inheritance..." Eph 1:13-14

## ***Sister Passage from Peter***

**1 Pet 3:1** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they may be won without a word by the conduct of their wives, 2 when they see your respectful and pure conduct. 3 Do not let your adorning be external—the braiding of hair and the putting on of gold jewelry, or the clothing you wear— 4 but let your adorning be the hidden person of the heart with the imperishable beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which in God's sight is very precious. 5 For this is how the holy women who hoped in God used to adorn themselves, by submitting to their own husbands, 6 as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord. And you are her children, if you do good and do not fear anything that is frightening. 7 Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way, showing honor to the woman as the weaker vessel, since they are heirs with you of the grace of life, so that your prayers may not be hindered.

## ***Eph 6:1-4 Children & Fathers***

**Eph 6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 2 “Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), 3 “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

- Children’s directions anchored to Mt. Sinai
- Accompanied with a promise (not a principle) of well being
- Fathers...fear the Lord and deal honorably with your children

### **Sister Passage**

**Col 3:20** Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord. 21 Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.

## ***Eph 6:5-9 Bondservants & Masters***

**Eph 6:5** Bondservants, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in sincerity of heart, as to Christ; 6 not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, 7 with goodwill doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men, 8 knowing that whatever good anyone does, he will receive the same from the Lord, whether he is a slave or free. 9 And you, masters, do the same things to them, giving up threatening, knowing that your own Master also is in heaven, and there is no partiality with Him.

- Deals with relationships between superiors and subordinates
- Truth:
  - We do not work for men (eye-service, men pleasers)
  - Work sincerely/from the heart
  - Work with goodwill (G2133: kindness)
  - Work as to the Lord/as you would Christ
  - Good will be repaid by God
  - Masters have a master too...and He's not partial!

## ***Sister Passage - Colossians***

**Col 3:22** Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing God. 23 And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, 24 knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ. 25 But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

- Work heartily (lit. from your breath/spirit)
  - Wrongs will also be repaid...no partiality

# Why are Relationships SO Problematic?

**James 3:13** Who is wise and understanding among you? Let him show by good conduct that his works are done in the meekness of wisdom. 14 But if you have bitter envy and self-seeking in your hearts, do not boast and lie against the truth. 15 This wisdom does not descend from above, but is earthly, sensual, demonic. 16 For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there.

- Self seeking G2052: lit. work for hire; contention, faction, rivalry; often a political term for those to put themselves forward, seek only their own, scheming
- Vs 16: Envy and Self seeking → confusion and every evil thing
- Plain ole selfishness

# Relationships Indicate Spiritual Condition

**1 Cor 3:1** And I, brethren, could not speak to you as to spiritual people but as to carnal, as to babes in Christ. 2 I fed you with milk and not with solid food; for until now you were not able to receive it, and even now you are still not able; 3 for you are still carnal. For where there are envy, strife, and divisions among you, are you not carnal and behaving like mere men?

- Envy, strife & divisions are indicators of carnality
- These refer directly to how we treat other people.
- A spirit-filled person will treat other people with respect, honor, unselfish motives (even strangers).

**Phil 2:3** Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself. 4 Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others.

# Motives for Relational Choices

How we relate with other people should be determined by:

1. Fear of God (**Eph 5:21** submitting to one another in the fear of God)
2. Service to Christ (**Matt 25:40**...inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.)
3. For their good (**Rom 15:2** Let each of us please his neighbor for his good, leading to edification.)

However, in practice, we often relate to people based on:

1. Incorrect perception of who I am (**Luke 14:7-11**...chief rooms)
2. Incorrect perception of who they are (**James 2:1-4**...filthy clothes)
3. Who is watching or listening (**Eph 6:6** eyeservice)
4. Fear of men (**Prov 29:25** The fear of man brings a snare...)

# 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Great Commandment

**Mat 22:37** Jesus said to him, 'YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND.' 38 This is the first and great commandment. 39 And the second is like it: 'YOU SHALL LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF.' 40 On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets."

- This is Jesus' guiding law for all relationships
- 2<sup>nd</sup> command repeated in Rom 13:9, Gal 5:14, James 2:8
- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> commandment not independent of each other

**1 John 4:20** If someone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen, how can he love God whom he has not seen? 21 And this commandment we have from Him: that he who loves God must love his brother also.

- Love God = Love each other
- Foundation of strong marriage

## Paul's Summary (1 of many)

**Col 3:12** Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, humility, meekness, longsuffering; 13 bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do.

- Paul expands on what the 2<sup>nd</sup> great commandment looks like.
  - Tender mercy
  - Kindness
  - Humility
  - Meekness
  - Longsuffering
  - Bearing with
  - Forgiveness

# Jesus on Relationships

**Luke 6:27** "But I say to you who hear: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, and pray for those who spitefully use you. 29 To him who strikes you on the one cheek, offer the other also. And from him who takes away your cloak, do not withhold your tunic either. 30 Give to everyone who asks of you. And from him who takes away your goods do not ask them back. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise. 32 "But if you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. 33 And if you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. 34 And if you lend to those from whom you hope to receive back, what credit is that to you? For even sinners lend to sinners to receive as much back. 35 But love your enemies, do good, and lend, hoping for nothing in return; and your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High. For He is

# Jesus on Relationships

kind to the unthankful and evil. 36 Therefore be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful. 37 "Judge not, and you shall not be judged. Condemn not, and you shall not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. 38 Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."

- Jesus undoubtedly was correcting misunderstandings about the law (you have heard eye for eye...)
- Jesus teaching counter to natural tendencies
- Summarized by vs. 31 And just as you want men to do to you, you also do to them likewise.