

Lesson 15 - Ephesians 5:21- 6:9
Spirit Filled Relationships

1. Spirit Filled Marriage

A. Mystery = Something Previously Hidden and Now Revealed

B. The Church

- The Church of Christ is a Building (a holy temple to the Lord)
- The Church of Christ is His Body
- The Church of Christ is His Bride

“The Jews had a low view of women. In the Jewish form of morning prayer there was a sentence in which a Jewish man every morning gave thanks that God has not made him ‘a Gentile, a slave or a woman’... The position was worse in the Greek world...The whole Greek way of life made companionship between man and wife next to impossible. The Greek expected his wife to run his home, to care for his legitimate children, but he found his pleasure and his companionship elsewhere...In Rome, in Paul’s day, the matter was still worse..the degeneracy of Rome was tragic, it is not too much to say that the whole atmosphere of the ancient world was adulterous...the marriage bond was on the way to complete breakdown.”

John RW Stott, *The Message of Ephesians*

“In all forty occurrences in the New Testament, the word “submit” means to arrange yourself under someone’s authority, as soldiers accept the authority of their commanding officers.”(Coekin)

“Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself...” Philippians 2:5-8a

2. Spirit-Filled Children & Parents

“It is immediately noteworthy that he thinks of the local congregation as a ‘church family, consisting of both sexes and of all ages. Since he addresses the children in this paragraph as well

as their parents, he evidently expects whole families to come together for public worship not only to praise God but also to listen to his Word...that children should have been included in the instructions, and given a section of their own, is an indication of the already pervasive influence in the church of him who had said, 'Let the children come to me...It was a radical change from the callous cruelty which prevailed in the Roman Empire, in which unwanted babies were abandoned, weak and deformed ones killed, and even healthy children were regarded by many as a partial nuisance because they inhibited sexual promiscuity and complicated easy divorce.'

John RW Stott, *A Message of Ephesians*

"In Scripture, the command to honor our parents is treated as seriously as idolatry. This is because the relationship of a parent and child is, after marriage, the most powerful illustration of a loving relationship between God and His people."

Richard Coekin, *Ephesians For You*

"My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor be weary when reproved by him. For the Lord disciplines the one he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." Hebrews 12:5b-6

"These words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise." Deuteronomy 6:6-7

"Your purpose as parents is ultimately to be the instrument of your children's salvation. You are not the ground of their salvation, but you are commanded to imitate the one who is...it is the same with marriage. Husbands cannot offer themselves as a vicarious, substitutionary atonement for their wives. The only one who can do that is Jesus. However, husbands are commanded to imitate that which they cannot do. It is the same with parents. Parents, you are not able to save your children...you obviously cannot be their saving grace, but you are commanded to imitate that saving grace and to facilitate it and have it permeate the atmosphere of your home. God is mighty and able to save."

Doug Wilson, *Why Children Matter*

3. Spirit Filled Relationships in the Workplace

“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.” Colossians 3:23-24

“Servants, be subject to your masters with all respect, not only to the good and gentle but also to the unjust. For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly...For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.” 1 Peter 2:18

“If I have rejected the cause of my manservant or my maidservant, when they brought a complaint against me, what then shall I do when God rises up? When he makes inquiry, what shall I answer him? Did not he who made me in the womb make him? And did not one fashion us in the womb?” Job 31:13-15

4. A Motivation

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, *that the word of God may not be reviled.*”
Titus 2:3-5 (emphasis mine)

“Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, *so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.*”
1 Timothy 6:1 (emphasis mine)

5. How? The Power to Live This Out

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places...in love he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ...” Ephesians 1:3&5a

“Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.” Matthew 11:28-30

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God...”
Colossians 3:16 (emphasis mine)