

12 GOD HONOURING RELATIONSHIPS

Covid-19 presented challenges for families and individuals that we have never seen before including but not limited to:

- Significantly increased time together
- Great disruption to normal routine
- Isolation from friends and extended family members
- Restrictions on activities and access to outside spaces
- Loss of income and financial distress



What are some of the biggest changes for you or your family during COVID?

How has your faith been strengthened or challenged during these times?

Some background

It is one thing to learn a memory verse, have a one hour devotional time every day, serve on a mission board, teach a church children's class, or be on a service roster. In the section of Ephesians we find ourselves Paul relates true spirituality to being worked out in the rough and tumble of everyday life – relationships.

Jesus streamlined God's law to two instructions to love—to love God and to love others (Matthew 22:25–29). This is the measure of our faith. This is how Paul commenced chapter 5: Ephesians 5:1–2 (NLT) ¹ Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children. ² Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God.

Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4 (NLT)

What speak to you and what challenges you in each of the following sub-headings?

- Mutual submission
- Husband
- Wife
- Children
- Parent

- Employee
 - Employer
1. This passage relates the husband's role in a marriage to Christ's role as the head of the church. What responsibilities then does the husband have?
 2. How can wives honour their husbands as the church honours Christ?
 3. What is the relationship between love and respect in a marriage?
 4. What are some ways parents "provoke" and "discourage" their children?
 5. In the first century, Paul saw many abuses in slave/master relationships. What principles from the twin passages in Ephesians and Colossians 3:18-4:1 can we draw for modern-day working relationships?
 6. How are followers of Jesus to view employment?

PRAYER

God, give us strength as we try to be more like Jesus in our homes. Keep the evil one away from us. Keep us close to you. Let our homes be testimonies of your love for us. When people look inside, let them see how you have loved the world. Max

John 13:34–35 (NLT) ³⁴ So now I am giving you a new commandment: Love each other. Just as I have loved you, you should love each other. ³⁵ Your love for one another will prove to the world that you are my disciples."

Journaling Take a few moments to record your personal insights from this lesson.