

Cheltenham & Frankston
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2 & 3 August 2014

RELATIONSHIPS SERIES (1)

THE FAMILY RELATIONSHIP

Message Notes

Text: Ephesians 5:21-6:4

The relationship between husbands and wives

The key theme in this passage is submission, and is something that is exercised by both the husband and the wife (v.21)

The Bible teaches that men and women are equal but different. This is not chauvinism or feminism:

Chauvinism = men are better than women

Examples...

- Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, regarded females as "imperfect males"
- Josephus, the Jewish-Roman historian, believed "*the woman is inferior to the man in every way.*"
- A Jewish male in Morning Prayer would thank God that he was not made "*a gentile, a slave or a woman*"
- The Islamic Koran states (Quran 4:34): "*Men have authority over women because God has made the one superior to the other, and because they spend their wealth to maintain them. Good women are obedient. They*

guard their unseen parts because God has guarded them. As for those from whom you fear disobedience, admonish them and send them to beds apart and beat them. Then if they obey you, take no further action against them. Surely God is high, supreme."

- According to Gandhi, "A Hindu husband regards himself as Lord and master of his wife, who must ever dance attendance upon him."

- Martin Luther...

"Even though they grow weary and wear themselves out with child-bearing, it does not matter; let them go on bearing children till they die, that is what they are there for." Martin Luther, Works 20.84

"God created Adam master and lord of living creatures, but Eve spoilt all, when she persuaded him to set himself above God's will. 'Tis you women, with your tricks and artifices, that lead men into error."

"We may well lie with what seems to be a woman of flesh and blood, and yet all the time it is only a devil in the shape of a woman."

Feminism = women's reaction to chauvinism is an attempt to bring equality between the sexes, but in reality has led to a feeling of female superiority and a clouding of male/female roles.

The Bible teaches that God created men and women equal:

Theologian Matthew Henry put it this way, *"Eve was not taken out of Adam's head to top him, neither out of his feet to be trampled on by him, but out of his side to be equal with him, under his arm to be protected by him, and near his heart to be loved by him."*

The husband is to demonstrate his submission to his wife by loving her. The wife is to demonstrate her submission to her husband by respecting him (see verses 25, 28 & 33)

Love = agape = love that is totally unselfish, that seeks not its own satisfactions and that strives for the highest good of the one loved. If you love your wife in this way she will have no problem respecting you!

"The husband is to love his wife, not just because of the beauty he finds in her, but to make her more beautiful." (Ephesians 5:31-32)

Hosea 2:16, 19-20, *"In that day," declares the Lord, "you will call me 'my husband,' you will no longer call me 'my master.' I will betroth you to me forever; I will betroth you in righteousness and justice, in love and compassion. I will betroth you in faithfulness, and you will acknowledge the Lord."* (Isaiah 54:5; John 3:29; 2 Corinthians 11:2)

The relationship between parents and children

Ephesians 6:1-4

Advice to children (1-3)

To "honor" is to obey, to reverence, to speak kindly to, to speak and think well of. The opposite is to "curse" = disobey, to treat with irreverence, to swear at, to speak ill of, to think evil of in the heart, to meditate or do any evil to a parent. All this is included in the original word.

The promises:

1. That it may go well with you
I.e. that you will be happier, more useful, and upright if you honor your parents than if you disobey them.

2. That you may enjoy long life on the earth
Obedient children are saved from the vices and crimes that shorten life. Obedience to parents is connected with good habits that are conducive to long life.

Psalm 112:1-3, *"Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, Who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants*

will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed. Wealth and riches are in his house, and his righteousness endures forever”

Advice to Parents (4)

The options:

1. Exasperate: infuriate, annoy, irritate, drive up the wall
(Because we all have the propensity to do this)
2. Bring them up (cherish, nourish, rear to maturity) in the training
(nurture with good discipline) and instruction (admonition, warning,
gentle correction) of the Lord.
