

“Understanding God’s Perspective on Societal Roles”

Ephesians 6:1-9 3/22/2020

Sermon Series: *Living out God’s Riches for God’s Glory*

“Be filled with the Spirit...submitting to one another in the fear of God.” 5:18, 21

LESSON 1- The Roles and Expectations within the FAMILY Vv. 1-4

- A. God has called children to relate with their parents by SUBMISSION
- 1) Children are to obey their parents and acknowledge their authority.
 - 2) Similar to the wife, a child’s submission is according to FAITH
 - 3) Children, submitting to your parents is submitting to God.
 - 4) *Obey* deals with actions, *honor* deals with ATTITUDE
 - 5) Once children leave the house, only honor is required (Gen. 2:24).

“And he who strikes his father or his mother shall surely be put to death... And he who curses his father or his mother shall surely be put to death.” Ex 21:15,17; Dt 21:18-21

- B. God has called the father (parents) to nourish his CHILDREN
- 1) Fathers are commanded not to create resentment (Col 3:20-21).
 - 2) The nourishing begins with instruction/discipline (“in the training...”)
 - 3) This includes *confronting* them (“admonition of the Lord”)
 - 4) There are physical, intellectual, social and spiritual needs (Luke 2:52)

LESSON 2- The Roles and Expectations in limited freedom SITUATIONS Vv. 5-9

- A. God has called believers to submit, demonstrating PROPRIETY
- 1) God expects Christians in these situations to live out the proper behavior, perspective, attitude, motives, and work-ethic.
- B. God has called employers to submit, demonstrating PERSPECTIVE
- 1) Employers should have the same propriety towards employees.
 - 2) They should not lord their authority (Matt 20:25-28)
 - 3) Humility should be observed because of Jesus’ Lordship and impartiality when it comes to believers. We are all equal.

Application *God wants us to bring Him glory in our respect for roles!*

Our Vision- Striving to be Disciples who make Disciples

“Children, be obedient to your parents in all things, for this is well-pleasing to the Lord. Fathers, do not exasperate your children, so they won’t lose heart.” Col 3:20-21

ESV 1 Samuel 3:13 And I declare to him that I am about to punish his house forever, for the iniquity that he knew, because his sons were blaspheming God, and he did not restrain them.

This passage, however, teaches that fathers need to exercise a sensitivity and care in how they interact with their children, and especially in how they discipline them. Fathers should carefully weigh the potential impact of their words and actions before responding to their children. This passage effectively rules out reactionary flare-ups, overly harsh words, insults, sarcasm, nagging, demeaning comments, inappropriate teasing, unreasonable demands, and anything else that can be perceived as provocative. In his instructions to fathers in Colossians, Paul says, “do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged” (Col 3:21).

Harvard sociologists observed 4 primary factors necessary to prevent delinquency in 5-6 year olds. 1) Fathers firm, fair, consistent discipline; 2) Mothers supervision and companionship during day; 3) affection of parents and for children; 4) family activities.

(1) Racial factors played no role.

(2) Many slaves could reasonably expect to be emancipated during their life

(3) Many slaves worked in a variety of specialized and responsible positions.

“doctors, teachers, writers, accountants, agents, bailiffs, overseers, secretaries, and sea captains.

(4) Many slaves received education and training in specialist skills.

(5) Freed slaves often became Roman citizens and developed a client relationship to their former masters