

The Key to All Relationships

Ephesians 5: 21-25

10/13/02

Intro

- Progress at the building.

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Paul has been giving some of the results of being filled with the Spirit. Typically, many people think of certain gifts that are associated with a church service when they think about the filling of the Spirit, but Paul shows us the very practical nature of the filling of the Spirit.

Paul is showing us that the Holy Spirit is very concerned about the deepest aspects of our lives – relationships.

God made us in such a way that relationships are an important part of a fulfilling life. What is wonderful is that we see here in these verses that good relationships are a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

Here in **verse 21** we see the principle that pervades all successful relationships

I. Submit to one another in the fear of Christ.

A. What does it mean to submit?

- Voluntarily coming under the direction of another.
- The principle of submission means that we consider the words from others and see if God is directing us through that person.

Illus – This is a difficult principle to get; it was for the disciples also. They often debated who among them was the greatest.

B. There are two essential truths that we see in this principle.

- 1) **First**, the “I want what I want” approach to relationships does not work. It will eventually collide with “you wanting what you want.” If everyone lives by the “I want what I want” principle of the world, then all our relationships will be doomed.
 - I only find fulfillment when I forget myself and devote myself to the fulfillment of others.
 - **Luke 9:24** – He who desires to save his life will lose it, but he who desires to ...

Illus – There was a Christian couple who moved into their dream home and the second day they were there the husband happened to run into the neighbor...

- 2) **Second**, there is a third person in all relationships.
 - Paul brings in the Lord to all the relationships he mentions. VS 21, 22, 25, 6:1, 5, 9.
 - When I understand what Christ wants in a relationship, then I have discovered the key to a fulfilling relationship.
 - Will we allow Him to have first place in our relationships?

Illus – To whomever we submit ourselves; that is our God.

- **if to God, then He is our Lord.**
- **If to ourselves, then we are our own god.**

- When I come to the place where I am convinced that Jesus wants the best for me, I have discovered faith.

Illus – Jon Courson’s car accident that killed his wife.

Paul then applies the principle to marriage.

* This is about marriage, and although there are many single people in our church, this is relevant to us all.

II. Husbands submit to the Lord.

I Cor 11 :3

A. We start with this point, because sometimes this gets lost in this discussion.

- There is an authority structure that God has established for families. God the Father, God the Son, the husband, wife, and children.

B. I don’t believe that any godly wife would have difficulty submitting to her husband, if she was convinced that he was submitted to the Lord.

- The problem is that many wives are convinced that the husband is seeking his own desires rather than those of Christ.

C. This is impossible in the flesh. But this is a result of being filled with the Holy Spirit.

- Then a husband can love his wife like Christ loved the church.
- **Don’t be dictatorial.** You need her input.

Illus – Abraham hearkened unto the voice of his wife.

Illus – with one man I was counseling, all could say to him was, “Love your wife like Christ loved the Church.” He never got that point, so I couldn’t go on to the next one.

III. Wives submit to your husbands.

A. This is not a popular principle in many feminine circles.

Illus – Dr. Louis Talbot was preaching at the Church of the Open Door in LA in the 40’s and ...

B. The word “submit” is not actually in the verse

- But is assumed by the grammar.
- Paul says, “To your own husbands.”
- “As to the Lord.” There are some things that the Lord would not ask a wife to do.

Illus – you are to be submitted to the Lord if your husband is not. If he says, “Here, honey, sign this tax form,” and you know it’s not right, then submit to Christ first.

Conclusion

There is a place of submission for all people. It is a principle that effects all relationships and if can be wise, we will see the result in godly, fulfilling relationships.