



HANDOUT

Lesson 8: Ephesians 5:22-6:9

THE BOOK OF

EPHESIANS

DISCUSS

What does the last phrase in 6:9 tell us about God? No favoritism between whom?

When Paul says, "Treat your slaves in the same way," what does he mean? What's the "same way"? Why doesn't it just say, "Masters, free your slaves"?

Now read over verses 5–8 again. What do you see here? What "reward" should slaves be most concerned about?

Who is the ultimate Master?

Now do you think it's reasonable to apply these verses to modern employment? Is this essentially the same as a boss-employee relationship? Why or why not?

How could this affect the way you work—either as an employee or as a boss?

In what ways could parents be "exasperating" or "provoking" their children?

According to this verse, what should parents do instead? How would that help?

Do you think it's significant that this is addressed to fathers and not parents in general? Does Paul's exhortation reflect only the culture at that time, or are fathers generally more likely to provoke their kids?

According to verses 1–3, why should children obey parents?

Does obedience always lead to a longer life? What is this "promise" really saying?

In Ephesians 5:31–33, what is the "profound mystery" Paul mentions?

How are those two relationships similar? How is Christ "one" with the church?

How does verse 33 sum up the interaction between husband and wife?

According to verse 25, how should husbands love their wives? What might this look like in everyday life?

Verses 28–30 anticipate the "one flesh" idea with husbands loving their wives as they love their own body. What implications does this have for the day-to-day relationship between husband and wife?

According to verses 22–24, what does it mean to be the "head" of a "body"? In what way is Christ the head of the body? And how is a husband the head of his wife?

How does the teaching in verse 22 compare with what we saw in 6:5, with the instructions to slaves?

How does the church submit to Christ? And how does that provide a model for wives with their husbands?



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LIVE IT OUT

Prayer: Take extra time this week to pray specially for the people in the three relationships Paul mentioned: your spouse, your children, and your employer or employees. Let love fill your prayers.

Brainstorm: If you're married, try this. Think of seven practical ways you could show love to your spouse—being sacrificial, supportive, and respectful. Better yet, work together to come up with seven ways each.

Interview: If you have kids, schedule some one-on-one time to ask them how their lives are going. This can be a great way to get beyond the "exasperation" of rules and expectations.

Evaluation: You've probably gone through evaluations at work. Do a self-evaluation based on how well you're serving the Lord. How are you doing with the qualities he loves? If you're a boss, consider how fairly you treat your workers.

Submission: The verse before this section of Scripture has the blanket statement, "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ" (5:21). In the coming week find three ways you can humbly put someone else first, instead of fighting for your own rights.