



CONNECT: Advice beyond Dr. Phil (Ephesians 5:21-6:9)
#8 in the series, The Game of LIFE: Ephesians Edition
November 1, 2009

Core Truth: God wants all of our relationships to thrive.

Connecting Truths:

1. Our mutual submission drives us to will and work for the good of others (5:22-6:9).
2. Our God-appointed roles instruct us about how we are to serve others (5:22-6:9).
3. Our ability to obey God is dependent upon our filling by God's Holy Spirit (5:15-21).

Five Evaluation Questions:

In your critical relationships...

1. Are you intentionally serving others ahead of yourself?
2. Are you fulfilling your God-appointed role?
3. Would others understand the Gospel better because of how you live?
4. Are you living out of the overflow of God's Holy Spirit?
5. What will you do now?

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Getting to Know Each Other

1. Are you a Designer (fresh ideas, likes a blank piece of paper), Developer (take a designer's ideas and make them better), or a Stabilizer (just keep the old ways running smoothly)?

Getting Started

2. As a group, try to summarize Ephesians 1-5.
3. Let's start out with some mental-only stuff, no need to get personal or emotional. Just think and talk about these two questions: (a) Why do you think Paul explains how to relate as a slave or slave-owner and does not say, "Slavery is evil. Stop it."? (b) Do you think "head" means "leader" or "source" (as in "headwaters"), and does it matter?

Digging Deeper

4. How would you feel if you had to read Ephesians 5:22-23 out loud in public? Why?
5. "Submission" does not mean subordinate, servant, gopher, or anything like that. How can the church/Christ relationship (5:22-24) help us gain a better understanding of the beauty of God's plan?
6. Describe the way a husband is to love and lead his wife (5:25-33). How would this look today? How is this different than being a "ruler" of the family?
7. For the married, what are some causes in your marriage that break down the roles and responsibilities that God has given?
8. For parents, how do you balance "training and instruction" without stirring up anger in your children?
9. Read 5:5-9, taking the principles and applying them to an employer/employee relationship, how would you adjust to live these?
10. Since the key to living a life worthy is being connected to Christ (John 15:5) and being filled with the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 5:18), what are you doing to make this more of a regular reality in your life?