

Ephesians Devotionals Week 3

Overview:

Watch the Bible Project video titled: “ Overview: Ephesians” on YouTube for a better understanding of the whole book. It’s super helpful! <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y71r-T98E2Q>

Day 1- Read Ephesians 5:21

- Paul is continuing to urge the Ephesians to live a life consistent with being saved by God’s grace through faith. He now turns his attention to what Christian’s relationships should look like for all of those who are in Christ.

- In the NIV, verse 21 begins with the word “submit”. This word comes from the compound word “ὑποτάσσω” in the Greek (“ὑπο-“under” + τάσσω-“put in position”). Using the literal translation “to put yourself in position under”, what do you think is at the heart of verse 21?

- Does our culture value positions of power or positions of service more? Explain your thinking.

- In what ways do you strive to put yourself in positions of power instead of a position of serving? How would being obedient to this command, change our relationships with others?

Day 2- Read Ephesians 5:22-33

- Both husbands and wives are called to “put themselves in positions under” each other (vs 21). However, this looks different for husbands and wives. How are wives called to put themselves in position under their husbands (22-24)?

- How are husbands called to put themselves in position under their wives (25-33)?

- What is exemplified when wives and husbands mutually serve, sacrificially love, and respect one another?

- Parents, how do these verses challenge you as a couple?

- Students, how do these verses prepare you for the possibility of a future marriage relationship?

Day 3- Read Ephesians 6:1-4.

- Paul now shifts what it looks like for children to “be in a position under” their parents. This passage gives 2 commands for children; what are they?
- A Christian child will exemplify their faith in Christ by obeying their parents (as long as they are not encouraging godless or evil behavior). As a student what adjustments must you make in your life to better obey your parents? How can you better honor your parents?
- Parents, what 2 commands are you given in verse 4?
- Parents, in what ways do you currently “provoke your child to anger”? Why does Paul denounce this dangerous action?
- Parents, are you doing everything that you can to raise your child/children up in the Lord? Consider asking them their opinion. How might you do better?

Day 4- Read Ephesians 6:5-9

- Paul now goes on to explain to the Ephesians that being a Christian also changes the master/slave relationship. The Bible is in no way justifying slavery, but it is speaking to a very common practice in the first century. How would this passage be radical for the first century recipients of this letter?
- Verse 9 reveals a staggering claim; “there is no favoritism with God!” Paul is stating that all humans are equal! All men and woman (vv 5:21-33), all parents and children (6:1:4) and all masters and slaves (6:5-9) are image bearers! How does this truth transform the way that we think about people?
- Do you show favoritism to anyone in your life? The powerful? The wealthy? The popular? The attractive? If so, what does this indicate about your heart? How does that compare with the heart and attitude of God?

Day 5- Read Mark 10:35-45.

- All week long we have learned that we ought to put ourselves “in a position under” one another. How have you been doing at this so far?
- In this passage both James and John, desired to be in a position “over” others instead of “under”. While the rest of the world functions with this mentality, what does Jesus value?
- How did Jesus exemplify what he is calling us to do?
- Close this week’s devotionals in prayer. Repent for thinking and living according to the values of the world. Thank Jesus for giving us his example. Ask God to help renew your mind in order to think and live like Jesus!