

7. Making Your Relationships Work | Sermon Guide

God's Guidelines for Marriage

Read v.18-19 | Consider the responsibility of husband and wife. How does this make you feel? Is this teaching on marriage outdated? Does Ephesians 5:21 change your initial thoughts? God says more about the quality of the husband's leadership than He does about the wife's submission. Consider the word agape, the same love Christ has for the church! It is the type of love that is based on commitment, not emotions or romance. Is the only response to that sort of love submission?

God's Principles for Parenting

Read v.20-21 | Consider the responsibility of children and parents. Children have a duty to listen and carry out the instructions of their parents. The verb here is in the present tense, indicating that such action is to be persistent and ongoing. Parents must make it as easy as possible for their children to obey! The way we treat children has a lot to do with their ability and willingness to fulfil their responsibility in the home. Read Ephesians 6:4

God's Ways in the Workplace

Read v.22-4:1 | How can these following principles improve our work life?

1. **Do your best at your job at all times.**

We're to work hard not just when the boss is around, but even when they aren't.

2. **Worship at your work.**

That doesn't mean that you hold a worship service at your company. Instead, it means that you work out of reverence for the Lord. Properly understood, your job, no matter what it is, can be an act of worship.

3. **Recognise Jesus as your boss.**

Since Jesus is your Master, work as His servant in your job. That means that we should never be sloppy or unethical.

4. **Work for a "raise" in the next life.**

Verse 24 tells us that when we do our best, when we worship at our work, and when we recognise Jesus as our boss, we will receive eternal compensation and a benefit package that is out of this world.

Conclusion

Everything we do in marriage, in the family, and in the workplace must be done in recognition that we have a Master over us. As such our attitude should always be to please Him, whether through submitting or loving, obeying or encouraging, working or supervising. Our master will reward us for our service to Him. We come back to the Colossian question: Is Jesus supreme in your life? If He is, then He will alter you if you allow Him to.