

War of the Worlds

Studies in Ephesians

Life In The Trenches

Introduction to Ephesians 5:22-6:9

A new world of reality awaits the cadet at West Point when he gets to the battlefield, because life in the trenches is the very different from the classroom. As Ephesians 5-6 shows, “life in the trenches” is our everyday relationships, and how well Christ’s message is applied to these relationships is the real test of our Christianity. The responsibilities of three of these key relationships are defined in this passage. It is important to realize that all of these relationships are to be lived in the context of Ephesians 5:21 which says to “be subject to one another in the fear (reverence) of Christ”. In other words, we are to live with an attitude of mutual subjection in all of our Christian relationships. In the marriage relationship, husbands and wives are to express this

differently. The wife is to be subject to her husband’s leadership, because, as Christ is the head of the man, so the husband is the head of the wife. This doesn’t imply superiority, but rather expresses the divine order for the marriage relationship. The wife’s ability to do this is greatly enhanced when the husband fulfills his responsibility, to love his wife as Christ loved the church. The ultimate expression of this is the husband’s sacrifice of his life to meet his wife’s needs, just as Christ gave Himself for His bride, the church. Then, the parent-child relationship is addressed. Children are to be subject to their parents by obeying them, and parents are to express their subjection to their children by nurturing



**The war is on...
are you ready?**

them in the Lord, and by raising them without anger. Finally, slaves—masters—in our context this would be employees and employers—are to be mutually subject to each other. Employees are to serve their bosses from the heart as they would Christ, and bosses are to manage their employees without threats. When these “life in the trenches” relationships are conducted this way, they show genuine Christianity.

The 5 Purposes of the Purpose Driven Life

- Worship—You were planned for God’s pleasure
- Fellowship—You were formed for God’s family
- Discipleship—You were created to become like Christ
- Ministry—You were shaped for serving God
- Evangelism—You were made for a mission

Study/Discussion Questions for Ephesians 5:22-6:9

(For answers to questions attend an ABF or go to www.celebrationnet.com/resources/leader resources)

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| 1. Read 5:22-24. How is the wife supposed to relate to her husband (v22, 24), and what do you think this means? Upon what rationale is this based (v23)? | |
| 2. From 5:25 how is the husband supposed to relate to his wife (v25a)? Who set the standard for this (v25b), and how did He illustrate its meaning (v25c)? | |
| 3. According to 5:26-27 what was the purpose of Christ’s sacrifice (v26a), and His ultimate goal (v27)? What is His process for bringing this to reality (v26b), and how can we apply this? | |

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Ephesians 5:22-6:9 Study Questions (cont)

4. In 5:28-30 what's another reason husbands should love their wives (v28-29), and what do you think this means? How did Christ exemplify this (v30)?

5. Based on 5:31-33 what is one way that a husband can illustrate his love for his wife (v31), and how did Christ do this (v32)? Summarize 5:22-33 (v33).

6. Using 6:1-3, in what 2 ways should children relate to their parents (v1, 2), and what is different about these 2 things? What promise is attached to this (v2)? Explain this.

7. Read 6:4. What should parents avoid with their kids (v4a)? What should they do instead (v4b), and what does this mean?

8. According to 6:5-6 how should employees (slaves) relate to their bosses (masters)? With what attitude should this be done (v5-6), and why (v5)?

9. Looking at 6:7-8, in general how should we serve everyone (including bosses)? What promise should motivate us to do this (v8)?

10. From 6:9 how should bosses treat employees (v9a), and why (v9b)?

11. From 5:22-6:9, summarize each side's responsibilities in the marriage (5:22-33), parent-child (6:1-4), and work (6:5-9) relationships. Think of some changes you need to make in these areas.

Scripture to Remember

“With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men.”

Ephesians 6:7

Celebration Fellowship

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Restoring—Raising Up*

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Life Group Questions

(Using questions based on today's message, Life Groups meet in homes to build supportive relationships with others at Celebration Fellowship that enable us to grow in Christ.)

1. Let several share what they like best about a house—the kitchen, the exterior, the bathrooms, the game room, family room, etc, and why.
2. Talk about the things people focus on while building their lives—the foundation, rooms, exterior, etc. What does Jesus say to focus on, and why?
3. We build on a wise foundation when we build on the character of Christ, and on the character of faith. How do we build on the character of Christ in our lives?
4. Discuss various aspects of the character of faith, and the relationship between faith and works. How do we build our lives on faith? Be specific.
5. What kind of storms do you typically face, and, practically speaking, how will having the character of Christ and the character of faith help you endure these?
6. Discuss anything else that impressed you from the message today if you have time.