



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

# EPHESIANS

## SESSION 1 1B: THE WAY TO GET AHEAD

Ephesians 6:1-9

*“Exploring the new standards and new relationships God intends for us”*

*By Rev. Rick Dietzman, Minister of Adult Discipleship*

*“Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free. And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.” - Ephesians 6:5-9*

1. What implications does this passage have for how employers treat their employees? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. How is a Christian employee’s service to be different than the non-Christian in our working relationships? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

3. Although Christians may be at different levels in earthly society, we are all equal before God. How does this truth affect how you view people who are poorer, in service roles, or who do not have the same social status as you do? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Do you have a specific example? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

4. In what situations or relationships have you been called upon to submit to someone else? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

• Do you find it easy or hard to submit? Why? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- How can you better honor and serve in this situation or relationship? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

## Digging Deeper

*For those who want to do more personal reflection on this topic.*

### Dealing with good and bad leadership.

1 Peter gives a very helpful model for how to be a good leader and also how to survive under an unjust or poor leader.

*"To the elders among you, I appeal as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings and one who also will share in the glory to be revealed: Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, serving as overseers-- not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not greedy for money, but eager to serve; not lording it over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock. And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away." - 1 Peter 5:1-4*

Here is the ideal for leadership: Caring and servant leaders who by their behavior result in a reward. When it doesn't happen that way, here are some keys to walking through it.

*"Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.' Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand, that he may lift you up in due time." - 1 Peter 5:5-6*

1. Humility is key. Grace comes from humility, not from pride.

*"Cast all your anxiety on him because he cares for you." - 1 Peter 5:7*

2. Trust that God is caring for you through it all.

*"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour. Resist him, standing firm in the faith," - 1 Peter 5:8-9*

3. Satan loves to take relational struggles and devour people in the midst of them. He uses our lack of self control to get the best of us.

*"...because you know that your brothers throughout the world are undergoing the same kind of sufferings." - 1 Peter 5:9*

4. There are others who endure your kind of hardship as well. It's not just you. Look for those from whom you can draw help and support.

*"And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm and steadfast. To him be the power for ever and ever. Amen." - 1 Peter 5:10-11*

5. God is the master of restoration. He can take us through any trial, no matter how large.