



SEQUIM COMMUNITY CHURCH

EPHESIANS

SESSION 20: THE WAY TO GET AHEAD

Ephesians 6:1-4 • May 8, 2018

"Exploring the new standards and new relationships God intends for us"

By Rev. Rick Dietzman, Minister of Adult Discipleship

Ice Breaker

1. Did you ever have a horrible boss? If so, how did you deal with it and stay sane? _____

In nine verses, Paul not only delves into the important relationships between parents and children, but those in the work world as well. (When he talks about slaves and masters, the nearest equivalent today is employers and employees.) In both of these situations he gives insights in how to succeed in these relationships and come out ahead in the end. We begin with family relationships.

"Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 'Honor your father and mother'-- which is the first commandment with a promise--'that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.' Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord." - Ephesians 6:1-4

2. How does this passage continue the theme of mutual submission that began in Eph. 5:21?

3. How would you characterize the relationship you have had with your parents? _____

• How did you do in terms of obeying and honoring them? _____

4. What reasons are given for obeying and honoring parents? _____

• How are obeying and honoring different? _____

5. In your own life (or in the lives of others) how have you seen the promise given to those who honor their parents fulfilled? _____

6. What are some ways that fathers (and mothers) exasperate their children? _____

- How can this be avoided? _____

7. At what age are children no longer obligated to obey their parents (6:1)? _____
At what age are they no longer obligated to "honor" their parents (6:2-3)? _____
- What do the following passages indicate about when a child should not obey or honor his/her parents:
 - Matthew 8:21-22 _____
 - Matthew 10:34-39 _____
 - Acts 4:18-20 _____
8. Look at the family roles/positions mentioned in Ephesians 5:22-6:9 that relate to your current station in life. What steps will you take this week to "be filled with the Spirit" in each of these roles? _____

Praying for one another:

Pray about any issues that came up regarding child/parent relationships or boss/employee relationships in your group. This Bible study gave specific guidance for how to navigate through good and poor leadership. We are all accountable to others, be that a boss, a church leader or a parent, and we also have others who are accountable to us. Having the right attitude is essential. Pray as well for any other needs you are facing in the group.