Messed Up Relationships

*Ephesians 5:21-6-9*

*Lord’s Day, August 7, 2011*

***Praise the Lord!***

**Goal: 20 minute message. Someone be timer and let me know at 15 minutes.**

21 And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

*Spirit-Guided Relationships: Wives and Husbands*

 22 For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. 24 As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.

 25 For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her 26 to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. 27 He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. 28 In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. 29 No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. 30 And we are members of his body.

 31 As the Scriptures say, “A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.” 32 This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one. 33 So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

*Children and Parents*

 1 Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do. 2 “Honor your father and mother.” This is the first commandment with a promise: 3 If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have a long life on the earth.”

 4 Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.

*Slaves and Masters*

 5 Slaves, obey your earthly masters with deep respect and fear. Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ. 6 Try to please them all the time, not just when they are watching you. As slaves of Christ, do the will of God with all your heart. 7 Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. 8 Remember that the Lord will reward each one of us for the good we do, whether we are slaves or free.

9 Masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Don’t threaten them; remember, you both have the same Master in heaven, and he has no favorites.

Love has the power to change – love is God

We should not be afraid to touch the lepers, that’s how Jesus was

How we are like the Pharisees, so clean pristine on the outside, but rotten on the inside

Marriage (and finding mate)

Experiences

* Divorced parents
* Peers with single parents (this becomes something commonplace, and accepted as the norm)

So we do:

* We can always date, hook up, get intimate, and break up
* Since everything is temporary, we just need to show our fake selves. (look good, act good, but don’t be real)
* No need for commitment, just desire romantic feelings and intimacy – and leave
* When feelings leave, no friendship, commitment exists, then people break up
* Follow feelings, we do as we feel, then end when feelings disappear; don’t be controlled, but do what I feel like

*I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, to be my (husband/wife). I promise to be true to you in good times and in bad, in sickness and in health. I will love you and honor you all the days of my life. I, \_\_\_\_, take you, \_\_\_\_, for my lawful (husband/wife), to have and to hold, from this day forward, for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health, until death do us part.*

Family (Children to Parents)

Experiences

* Parents struggling
* Parents do not discipline their children
* Other peers rebel against their parents
* Advent of Internet and Industrial age, younger people feel they know better

So we do

* Show defiance to our parents
* We do what we want, there’s no greater authority than “me”
* Complain, Criticize

Work (Bosses to subordinates)

Instead of focusing on what can people do for me, let us focus on what we can do unto others

You may be thinking, but im not ready – Ill do it when Im ready.

* Then u nullify God’s grace bc u believe you’ll be perfect some time on your own strength.
* Just from where you are, seek to care for one another

Friendship

* If common purpose forms friendship, then our single purpose is love (our acceptance of God’s love)
* Deep friendships can only occur w few people, not thousands
* (facebook issue, illusion, not-being-real)
* How can we enact Acts 2? Branch out!