



ephesians together

Review

Initial comments, questions, and reactions about the sermon?

Main Points:

1. Jesus can transform the way children respond to their parents. In Christ, they can lay down their desire for power and honor their parents instead of getting what they want.
2. Jesus can transform the way parents raise their children. In Christ, they can lay down their power to be forceful or neglectful and deliberately train their children to follow God.
3. Jesus can transform the way we work. In Christ, we can lay down our power and serve and respect others, whether we are employees or employers.

Reflect

Read Ephesians 5:21 and Ephesians 6:1-9.

Questions:

1. What are the all the areas you have power, and how do you think you normally use your power?
2. **Read Ephesians 5:21 and Philippians 2:5-8.** Describe the power Jesus has and how he used power. How does that passage help us with Ephesians 5:21?
3. **Read Ephesians 6:1-3.** What do you think honor looks like for children? Brainstorm specific ways. Jimmy used the example of his daughter's "tactical tantrums" to illustrate that children naturally wield their power to get what they want – what are others we do that, instead of obeying and honoring?
4. **Read Ephesians 6:4.** The primary role of a parent is to deliberately and lovingly train their children to follow Christ. What other goals do you think compete with that goal as parents? Who do you know that does this well, and what do they do?
5. **Read Ephesians 6:5-9.** Jimmy emphasized that Paul is not condoning slavery in this passage. Instead he gives readers some practical ways to live out the gospel in their current work relationships. Jimmy shared two examples- a woman who came to Christ because of her boss's testimony and a young man whose future was changed because of a prosecutor's approach to justice. What struck you about either of these stories?

Respond

Application.

No matter the job, figuring out how to follow Jesus at work can be hard and/or confusing. Based on this passage, what does it look like for you to use power differently at your job? What would the result be you think?

Pray

Go around as a group and ask for prayer requests. Pray as a group together.

Dig Deeper

If you have time. Read Ephesians 5:5-9.

When you read this passage, if you are like me, your mind immediately goes to the horrific and evil slavery that occurred in our country. Is that what Paul has in mind? The short, simple answer is no. Paul doesn't have 17th century Alabama in his mind; instead, he has 1st century Ephesus. And in 1st century Ephesus, and throughout the Roman Empire, this relationship of bondservant-master was much different. It's not even apples and oranges —it's like trying to compare apples and Twinkies.

Here are a few important facts about slavery in the 1st-century:

- Best estimates for the # of slaves/bondservants = 60,000,000 – or 1/3 of the population.
- It was not race-based slavery like in our country, and from an outward appearance, you wouldn't know the status of an individual.
- 50 % were freed by 30, and the average length of slavery was 10 years, as often times they could earn/buy their freedom.
- John Stott describes the role and work of bondservants: “They constituted the workforce and included not only domestic servants and manual laborers but educated people as well, like doctors, teachers, and administrators” (Stott, 250). Essentially, if you had a normal 9-5 job, most likely you were a bondservant.
- There were masters who abused their relationship and sometimes the conditions were not right and fair – but it wasn't the standard.
- Interestingly enough, some people chose to become a bondservant, as it would improve their living situation and even grant them Roman citizenship.

The most suitable application today then, is actually the boss-employee relationship.

Questions:

1. Describe your work environment and what it's like to live your faith at work.
2. Think about your current boss-employee relationship. What makes it easy or hard to have a follow the instructions of this passage?
3. What opportunities do you have to a be a light for Jesus at work by how you use your power?

Announcements

Please share with your group! Encourage them to visit the CCC website to sign up or to get more information

1. Don't miss **“An Evening with Tom Randall”** on November 18 at 6:30 p.m. He will share stories that will inspire you to boldly share your faith.
2. If you picked up a Thanksgiving Basket, the drop off date for **Thanksgiving Baskets** is November 19 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m at CCC.
3. Plan to invite friends and family to the **Christmas Concerts** Dec. 6-9. Visit ccchapel.com/events for more information. Tickets go on sale Nov. 19.