

NEW TESTAMENT WRITERS

EPHESIANS

Pray: ask God to open your mind, soul and spirit to His teaching through His Word

Think: the questions are designed to expand your knowledge of God and His Word

Begin: using only your Bible, answer the questions* without other outside sources

**questions are based on New International Version (NIV)*

Lesson 6 – Ephesians 5:21–6:9

October 28, 2009

1.
 - a) What is the verb command of how we are to be in Ephesians 5:21? Look up the definition for this word in a dictionary.

 - b) To whom are we to be this way?

 - c) What is the important phrase which describes the motivation behind the commanded action?

 - d) Describe interactions you've had yesterday and today that exemplify your obedience to this command.

2. How do you think Ephesians 5:21 is relevant to Ephesians 5:22–6:9?

3.
 - a) In Ephesians 5:23,25–29 to whom is the husband compared?

 - b) Summarize the responsibility and relationship husbands are to have with their wives according to Ephesians 5:23–33.

 - c) How do you think he will accomplish the goals set forth for him in these verses?

4.
 - a) To what are wives compared in Ephesians 5:23–24, 28–30?
 - b) What is the command to wives in Ephesians 5:22, 33?
 - c) Who gives these commands?
 - d) What two phrases let us know how and to whom wives are to submit according to Ephesians 5:21–22?
 - e) If you are a wife, describe what the hour after you've greeted your husband in the evening entails in thought and action as you follow Ephesians 5:22, 33. If you are not a wife, describe what your interaction with another (parent, boyfriend, boss, co-worker) entails based on Ephesians 5:21.
 - f) Secular society does not embrace the unconditional nature of these commands. What qualifications, contingencies or exceptions are commonly accepted in our culture? Under what conditions is it acceptable to disregard or weaken these commands?
 - g) Are the qualifications, contingencies or exceptions you listed founded in scripture? If yes, list verses.
 - h) Prayerfully consider: Where/when/how do you embrace cultural standards and rationalize disobedience or conditional obedience?

5. To what mystery is Paul referring in Ephesians 5:32? How might this help in question 3(c)?

6.
 - a) How are children expected to behave in Ephesians 6:1–2?
 - b) How have you honored and obeyed your father and mother this week? If your parents are no longer living, reflect back on a parent/child event or interaction that you are led to share with your group.

- c) Revisit question 4(f and h), focusing on Ephesians 6:1–3, parent and child relationships. See Exodus 20:12, Matthew 15:3–6 for further insight.
7. a) How are fathers commanded to behave towards children in Ephesians 6:4? See also Colossians 3:21.
- b) Why do you think fathers are specifically addressed?
8. What changes will you prayerfully undertake as you apply the principles of Ephesians 6:5–8 to the authorities placed in your life?
9. Whom has God given you authority over and how have/will you demonstrate the principles in Ephesians 6:9?