

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE**Discipline that Leads to Delight**

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

OVERVIEW

Everything—literally everything—in heaven and on earth is being united in Christ (1:10). Only when we understand who Christ is can we begin to understand who we are. We often read Paul’s letters thinking about all Scripture calls us to do. But before Ephesians calls us to do anything, it reminds us what God has done in Christ.

Our identity is not based on what we do, but who we are. Our identity is not earned and achieved but declared and received. Our identity, as Christians, is found “in Christ.” We are united to Christ—and that changes everything about us! Paul’s letter to the church in Ephesus explains what we were (apart from Christ), who we are (in Christ), and then how we should live as followers of Christ, all for the glory of Christ.

APPLY // EPHESIANS 5:22-33

1. Read Ephesians 5:1-2; 15-33.
2. Why is it important to remember these first two verses as we begin to apply all that follows?
3. Focusing on verses 22-33. Why is it important that we let Scripture define what marriage is instead of taking our cue from the world?
4. How does Jesus show us a life of strong submission? How does this inform a wife’s submission to her own husband?
5. How does Jesus show us a life of sacrificial headship? How does this inform a husband’s love for his wife?
6. Why is it important that the church hold marriage in high regard, but not as the highest relational goal? How can we make sure that we encourage the married and unmarried alike?
7. How does Ephesians 5 point us toward our heavenly marriage of Christ and the church? How does heaven help both the married and unmarried enjoy life now?

STUDY // EPHESIANS 6:1-4

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

1. Read Ephesians 5:15-6:9.
2. What is the flow of Paul’s instruction in 5:22-6:9?
3. How are Paul’s instructions here tied back to what he previously said in 1:10 (God’s plan to unite all things under Christ) and 3:10 (to demonstrate the wonder of his character in the church)?

4. In 6:1-4, who is being addressed?
 5. What does it mean for children to “obey your parents in the Lord”? Why does Paul insert “for this is right”?
 6. What motivation does Paul give for children obeying their parents?
 7. Notice that the phrase “Honor your father and mother” is from the Ten Commandments (cf. Exodus 20:12). What significance does this fact have in interpreting the text?
 8. What does it mean for children to “honor” their parents?
 9. Paul continues quoting the old covenant promise: “that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” What did this mean for Israelites under the old covenant? What is Paul saying by quoting it here? What does this promise mean under the new covenant?
 10. Who does Paul address in verse 4? What does this tell us about the role of fathers? Does exclude mothers from instructing and disciplining their children?
 11. Negatively, Paul says “do not provoke your children to anger?” What does this mean? What might it look like?
 12. Positively, Paul says “bring them up in the instruction and discipline of the Lord.”
 - a. What does it mean to “bring them up”?
 - b. What is the instruction of the Lord?
 - c. What is the discipline of the Lord?
 - d. Why is it important for parents to have both of these when raising and caring for their children?
 13. How does 5:1-2 inform Paul’s instruction here?
 14. How does faithful parenting show us the character of God and the beauty of the gospel?
- General Bible study questions:
 - **God:** What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - **Humanity:** What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - **Christ:** How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - **Response:** How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - **God:** How does this passage help me hope in heaven?

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Discuss one area of your life where God is growing your love for Jesus or one area where you desire him to grow your love for Jesus.