

Mt. Lebanon Church

Adult Sunday School Lesson

1.28.2024

Please look up and read all verses in their entirety. I have only written partial verses.

Make your own notes, write down other scriptures that you run across while studying, write down questions that you may have or comments as well. Below please find my sharable thoughts, so please allow the Holy Spirit to reveal to you that he would have you to see through the study of God's word to share.

God – Honoring Families

Ephesians 5: 21 – 23, 6: 1 – 4

As Christians, we must walk in the same spirit that Christ walked in, because his love was genuine and true, and we need to have that kind of obedience in our life. Our relationship with God should reflect our relationship with one another, which includes putting the needs of others, above our selves. In doing so, let us remember that this is not for our own personal benefit, but it is out of our reverence for Christ, for when we are serving others, we are serving the Lord. In the letter to the church at Ephesus, one of the many lessons that we learn is how to understand our identity in Christ, and how that we should reflect that identity as we live our lives in him here upon this earth. First and foremost, as Christians, we should live according to the spirit of God that dwell within us, submitting ourselves unto God, and then to one another in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Now, submission does not make us vulnerable as some may think, as long as both are serving each other in the same manner that they would serve God. The relationship between a man and a woman, as well as the relationship between the parents and their children should reflect a type of relationship between Christ and his church, which is a relationship that results in a Christlike life full of godly sacrifice, one which produces an abundance of spiritual fruit that is beneficial to others and will glorify God. Our life must be a demonstration of the life of Christ living within us.

Galatians 2: 20,....I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but Christ liveth in me, and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me....

It is only when we give up trying to achieve righteousness on our own and accept the righteousness of God by faith in Christ, that we truly begin living for God, for it is our relationship with Christ that actually makes it possible to live for God. Now, this new commitment means that we have dedicated ourselves to the service of the Lord, which gives unto us our strength in our relationship with God, which can be summed up in:

Mark 12: 30 – 31,....thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength....thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself....

Ephesians 5: 21 – 28,....submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God....wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands, and unto the Lord....as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body....therefore the church is subject unto Christ....husbands, love your wives....as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it....that he might present it to himself a glorious church....that it should be holy and without blemish....he that loveth his wife loveth himself....

Here, we see in God's word, Christ using family to provide a spiritual basis of instruction concerning the relationship between Christ and his church. Just as the family is called to live united, serving one another together, so is the church to live united in Christ. It has never been, or never will it be about one person being better than another, but it is about a mutual submission, one that loves and glorifies God. This sanctification process, which begins at salvation and carries on to glorification, is to transform us into the likeness of Christ, who loved the church so much that he gave his life for it. Throughout our life in Christ, as we study, meditate, and pray on the word of God, he is refining us through its purifying properties. This is so that the church, the body of Christ, will be made perfect without spot or wrinkle, holy and blameless, transformed into the likeness of the only begotten Son of God, to the praise and honor and glory of the Father which is in heaven.

2 Corinthians 3: 18,....but we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the spirit of the Lord....

God did not change the old me, rather, through salvation, he allowed me to exchange my old sinful nature for a new life in his Son, Christ. The old me died in Christ on the cross, when he paid the penalty for all of humanity's sins. The work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer is to bring us into his likeness, for it is the Spirit's ministry of grace that makes us like Christ.

Ephesians 5: 29 – 33,....for no man ever yet hated his own flesh, but nourisheth and cherisheth it, even as the Lord the church....for we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones....for this cause shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh....I speak concerning Christ and the church....let every one....so love his wife....and the wife....reverence her husband....

Salvation is by God's grace through faith in his word. Salvation is always a matter of faith, but the way that God deals with each one varies in several ways. As members of the new creation in Christ we are members of his body, and we have been made the righteousness of God in him. As we dwell in him and he in us, we understand that we are bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh.

Genesis 2: 23,....Adam said, this is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh....

Just as all of humanity, through Adam, all bear unique and necessary characteristics to the human family, so do all who by faith believing in Christ bear the spiritual characteristics of God. Therefore, since Adam was created in the image and likeness of God, and we bear the image of Adam, through Eve, where in **Genesis 3: 20** says: because she is the mother of all living, our existence is defined by our relationship to the creator, and our spiritual characteristics are defined by our relationship with Christ.

Ephesians 6: 1 – 4,....children obey your parents in the lord, for this is right....honor thy father and mother....that it may be well with thee....ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the lord....

As an obedient child of God, we should carry out the instructions which we receive from him through his word, for these instructions are in line with his will for our lives. In order to be obedient, and to do what is right in the eyes of the Lord, God instills within us the wisdom and knowledge, through life-experiences, which help us to receive godly discipline. The example of our God honoring family relationship is vital if the generations that follow are to survive in this sinful world. The structure of the family, both physical and spiritual, is clearly set forth in the word of God, and those who are obedient unto these instructions will live lives that honor their family and also honor the body of Christ, which will glorify God. This example will provide a godly witness to the rest of a world that is lost and undone without Christ and without the family of God.

Let us Pray.

If anyone has any questions, comments or would just like to discuss any of the scriptures, feel free to call, text or email me. Keep praying for each other and all the God lays upon your heart. Hope to see everyone soon. God Bless.

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