

RIVERSIDE ANGLICAN CHURCHES **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION AND REFLECTION**

EPHESIANS 5:15-6:9

This study is modified from the "Daily Reading Bible", volume 6, covering Ephesians. It is modified and reproduced through our gothere.com subscription.

Spirit-filled living: Read Ephesians 5:15-21

1. What do you think makes the days "evil" in verse 16?
2. How would you recognise a spirit-filled life according to this passage?
3. Why don't we do more singing with each other as Christians? Is Paul saying we should?
4. Would people who knew you say you were a thankful person? Take note who we are to be thankful to.
5. Verse 21 speaks about submitting to one another – what clues are there in the passage that submission is not expected of everyone towards everybody else (see 5:22, 5:25, 33, 6:1, 6:4, 6:5)? What then is submission actually for?

Wives and husbands: Read 5:22-33

6. The main image in this passage is of the church as Christ's body. What does Christ do for his body? And how does the body relate to Christ?
7. What does this mean for husbands and wives respectively?
8. Are vs 22-24 teaching that a Christian wife must do everything her husband may demand? How does the connection back to 5:21 and 5:18 help us to understand these verses?
9. What are some practical ways that submission could be demonstrated?
10. What do verses 28-31 say about the nature of marriage?
11. What goals should a husband have?
12. In practical terms, how do you think husbands should care for, nurture and love their wives—physically, emotionally, spiritually?
13. Why is it hard for wives to submit to their husbands in our culture?

Children and fathers: Read 6:1-4

14. What does it mean to obey one's parents when one is a child? What about when you have grown up and left home? What about in your parents' old age? Is there a difference between honouring and obeying then?
15. What's wrong with making children angry (think back to Eph 4:26, 31)?
16. What does teaching children involve? What is meant by discipline here? What is the meaning of "instruction of the Lord"?
17. Why do you think Paul addresses fathers specifically, and not simply parents? If you are a father, how are you going with raising and instructing your children in the Lord?
18. How do parents exasperate their children? How are you honouring your own parents?

Slaves and masters: Read 6:5-9

19. Under what circumstances would a slave be tempted to work poorly or disobediently?
20. What might make a master think that he could get away with treating slaves badly?
21. How does recognizing that Christ is the true and ever-present Master change the attitude of both slave and master?
22. We have many obligations and responsibilities in life, including our daily work. How does the teaching of these verses challenge your attitudes to those to whom you owe an obligation and to those you have some authority over?