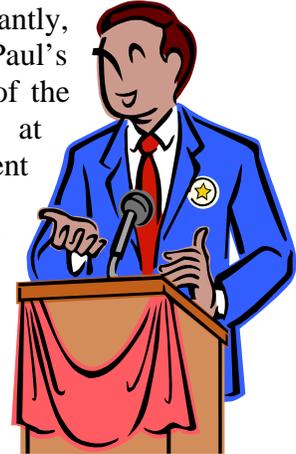


SERMON SUMMARY

Date: May 7, 2006	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Ephesians 5:22 – 6:4
Topic: Cultivating a Christ-centered home by giving attention to - Authority	

The way society is currently, one really has to wonder if the concept of authority has any relevance anymore or is authority a dead word? More importantly, one also has to look at the meaning of authority in the Christian home. Paul's letter to the Ephesians addresses this issue in the application aspect of the book, namely chapters 4-6. The approach Paul takes is to look at spirituality in terms of how it is worked out in relationships at different levels within the home.

In verses 22-33 of chapter 5, Paul addresses the **primary responsibility of couples**. Verses 22-24 for example, points out the saintly submission of wife to husband. In our modern society, sometimes women are forced to submit out of fear or other reasons, but in this case, the submission is one of a Godly nature. It is one that comes out of a respect of God's order and how He has established the chain of authority.



Verses 25-30 speak about the sacrificial service of husband to wife. The husband is called to serve his wife sacrificially as Jesus offered himself to the church. Jesus is the greatest example of how a husband ought to treat his wife. Paul also points to a spiritual separation of both into one new unit (verses 31-33). It is out of a respect for Christ that husbands and wives carry out their roles and this requires us to see Christ as the basis for the relationships. The oneness that Paul alludes to in verses 31-33 is one that should be marked by reverence because God's establishment of this relationship is a holy one.

In verses 1-3 of chapter 6, we see Paul addressing the **proper response of children**. This response is based on:

- What is right before God (verse 1)
- What is required by God (verse 2)
- What is rewarded by God (verse 3)

Children are an integral part of relationships within the home and they need to be obedient in their roles as children as it relates to their parents. This role is one that is marked by respect and children need to see God's command as the best. God's way is always honorable.

The reciprocal is also important in terms of how parents should relate to children. In verse 4 of chapter 6, Paul speaks of **productive regulation of children**, which is seen in two ways:

- A refraining from overloading with rules (verse 4a)
- A routine of opening the word to them (verse 4b)

When it comes to relating to our children, carefulness is beneficial and this carefulness is not only in relation to caution, but also to being alert. The oversight of parents must be marked by realism i.e. parents need to '*be real*' with their children.

In terms of the family setting, what is needed is the accepting and acting on the counsel of the scriptures and the Holy Spirit. Families need to make the studying of the word and the sensitivity to the Holy Spirit the first priority in the home.