

# OUR RELATIONSHIPS AS CHRISTIANS

Eph 4:1-6

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. One of the most practical lessons for Christians is that of how Christ and His word is to guide us in all relationships
- B. When one submits to the authority of Christ, as a baptized, penitent believer, he is taught that he no longer "runs his own life" but has been bought with a price by Christ and belongs to Him 1Cor 6:19,20
- C. Paul points out in 2Cor 10:5 that we are to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ
- D. We need to see clearly that we cannot maintain the proper relationship to Christ without proper conduct in all the relationships of life. You can't have one without the other

## DISCUSSION:

### I. MOST RELATIONSHIPS EXIST APART FROM THE FACT THAT YOU ARE A CHRISTIAN

- A. When one is born into this world physically he immediately has some relationships
  1. Home: family relationships - parents, brothers, sisters
  2. Government: civil - becomes a citizen
- B. Later the individual may enter voluntarily into other relationships
  1. Economic: business - farming, store, factory, etc
  2. Social: community - neighbors, schools, etc
  3. Marriage: husband, wife, father, mother, children, etc
- C. All of these can and do exist and one not be a Christian

### II. BECOMING A CHRISTIAN FORMS A NEW RELATIONSHIP AND ALL OTHERS ARE REGULATED BY THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

- A. When one is "in Christ" he is a "new creature" 2Cor 5:17
  1. This "inness" effects all things of your life -- some things have to be "out"
  2. Our relationship to Christ and other Christians is a primary thing -- "a first" -- and we must guard it against disruption Matt 6:33; 1Jhn 1:6-10; Eph 4:1-6
- B. Civil relationship "Government"
  1. To be respected by the Christian and recognized as a minister of God Rom 13:1-6
  2. Its purpose - punishment of evildoers and praise of them that do well 1Pet 2:13,14
- C. Economic relationship -- Business
  1. We are to work to supply our needs 1Thess 4:11,12; 1Tim 5:8; Eph 4:28; 2Thess 3:10-12
  2. Principles of Christ to be recognized
    - a. Servants to render service as to Christ and not as to man Eph 6:5-8; Col 3:22-25
    - b. Masters to treat servants right Eph 6:9; Col 4:1
- D. Social relationship -- Community
  1. Relationship in general 1Pet 2:12; Col 4:5

2. Principles of Christ
  - a. Who is my neighbor Lk 10:25-37
  - b. Don't show respect because of outward appearance Jas 2:1-12
  - c. Love worketh no ill to his neighbor Rom 13:10

### E. Family relationship - Home

1. Teachings of Christ regulate our family life and show us the way to true happiness in this relationships.
2. Husband / wife Eph 5:22-33; Col 3:18,19; 1Pet 3:1-7
3. Parent / child Eph 6:1-4; Col 3:20-21; 2Cor 12:14; 1Tim 5:4,8,16

### F. Religious relationship - Church -- congregation

1. Imitate the humility, meekness and gentleness of Christ Phil 2:5-11; 2Cor 10:1
2. Consider one another always Heb 10:24; Phil 2:1-4
3. Honor one another Rom 2:10
4. Teach, admonish, restore one another Eph 5:18,19; Col 3:16; Gal 6:1
5. Each of us to do our part to build up the body of Christ Eph 4:14-16; 1Cor 12:14-27

### III. FAILURE TO FUNCTION IN THESE RELATIONSHIPS AS DIRECTED, AFFECTS OUR RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST

- A. We respect Government for conscience sake Rom 13:5
- B. In work we must work as the servant of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart Eph 6:6 see also Tit 2:10
- C. We influence others in the community Matt 5:13-16
- D. Denied the faith, if family relationship not right 1Tim 5:8 ("Provide involves more than just financial support" prayers can be hindered by husband's treatment of his wife 1Pet 3:7)
- E. Can't love God and hate brother 1Jhn 4:20,21

### IV. WE NEED TO RESPECT PRIORITIES IN RELATIONSHIPS & ALWAYS PUT FIRST THINGS FIRST - RELATIONSHIP TO CHRIST IS ABOVE ALL OTHER RELATIONSHIPS

- A. Matt 6:19-34 discusses the relationship of spiritual things to the matter of making a living. God recognizes need to make a living v.32; Yet, there are priorities v.33
- B. Can't put family, anyone or anything above Christ - He is first Matt 10:32-38
- C. God is higher than governments Acts 4:19; 5:29
- D. God through Christ has authority over church Col 1:18

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Just as necessary to please God in home, in business, in civil affairs, and social contacts as in the church.
- B. If relationship in these is not right he is not a Christian no matter how faithful in the work and worship of the church
- C. Christian life embraces every relationship 24 hours a day