

EPHESIANS 8

1. Can any human imitate or be like God?

-No.

-The more we learn about God, the more we understand that no one can be like God.

2. Then how can we imitate or be like God?

-We allow the Lord Jesus Christ to live His perfect life through us.

3. To what degree will the Lord Jesus help us to be like God?

-To the degree that we ask Him.

4. How is the love of the flesh different from the love of Christ?

-The love of the flesh is a selfish love, wanting only to receive.

-The love of Christ, however, is a love that is totally unselfish, wanting only to give.

5. Is there any way that Christians or anyone else can have this love by themselves?

-No.

-This love can only come from God, and it is our responsibility to ask our God for His love in our lives.

6. Why do God and Paul write that sin should not even have a small part of our lives?

-Because sin is improper for God's holy people.

-Because sin spears us, and wants to kill us.

7. Even though Christians sin, what is the difference between Christians and non-Christians?

-Christians do not continually sin.

8. Why do Christians not continually sin?

-Because Christ has given us a new heart, a new mind of Christ, and the Holy Spirit who lives in us.

9. Are Christians more powerful than sin?

-No.

-Before salvation and after salvation, only God is more powerful than sin.

10. Instead of being controlled by alcohol, what does God command Christians to do?

-To be filled with the Holy Spirit.

11. Is the Holy Spirit living in us and being baptized by the Holy Spirit one and the same truth?

-Yes.

12. Since all Christians have been baptized by the Holy Spirit, and the Holy Spirit lives in all Christians, what is the meaning of being filled with the Holy Spirit?

-To be filled with the Spirit means to continually allow God on the inside to have continual, complete control of our lives.

-Beginning in chapter 5, verse 22, God and Paul teach us truths concerning wives, husbands, and children.

-Before we read the following Bible verses, we need a foundation:

-In the world, there are people who say that a man is superior or better than a woman.

-Also in the world, there are people who say that a woman is superior or better than a man.

-Before God, is a man better than a woman?
-No.

-Before God, is a woman better than a man?
-No.

-In Galatians 3:28, we learn this:

-In God's eyes, there is neither male nor female, for all are one in Christ Jesus.

-This means that God did not create a man to be superior to a woman, nor did He create a woman to be superior to a man.

-In God's eyes, men and woman are one which means that they are created equal.

-If a man thinks that he is superior or better than a woman, he is wrong because God has never said this.

-If a woman thinks that she is superior or better than a man than she is wrong, for God has never said this.

-Before God, men and women are of equal importance, for God has created all men and women spiritually equal.

-With this foundation, we can now read three verses which teach us the role of the wife:

Let's read Ephesians 5:22

22-Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.

-How are wives to submit to their husbands?

-Just like we submit ourselves to the Lord.

-When a wife submits herself to her husband, she is also submitting herself to God.

-When a wife does not submit herself to her husband, she is also not submitting herself to God.

-Should a husband force his wife to submit to him?

-No.

-This is the work of God the Holy Spirit in the heart of the wife.

-The husband can help his wife to submit to him by loving her.

-What should a wife do if her husband is forcing her to disobey God?

-She should obey God instead of her husband.

-What should a wife do if her husband is not forcing her to disobey God, yet is being difficult?

-She should submit herself to God and to her husband.

-For a wife to submit herself to God and to her husband even though her husband is difficult, what can the wife know?

-That God is pleased is with her, and that her husband must answer to God for his sins against her.

-What should a wife do if her husband is beating her?

-She should look for help from another Christian.

-In the next verses, God and Paul give the reason why a wife should submit herself to her husband.

Let's read Ephesians 5:23-24

23-For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior.

24-Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

-Why should wives submit themselves to their husbands?

-Just as God chose Christ to be the head of the church, God chose the husband to be the head of the family.

-It is God's design for governments, churches, and families to have leaders.

-What would life be like if there were no leaders?

-Chaos.

-Just as there is chaos in governments and churches if there are no leaders, there is also chaos in families if the husband does not lead.

-What would life be like if no one obeyed the leaders?

-Chaos.

-Just as there is chaos in governments and churches if no one obeys the leaders, there is also chaos in families when no one obeys the husband.

-Just as the work of governments and churches is to protect their people, it is also the work of the husband to protect his wife.

-Now, God and Paul teach about the role of the husband in the family.

Let's read Ephesians 5:25

25-Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

-How should a husband love his wife?

-Just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her.

-Is it possible for a husband by himself to love his wife as Christ loves the church?

-No.

-How is it possible for husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church?

-By allowing the Holy Spirit to love their wives through them.

-Some people think that it is not possible for husbands to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

-Yet, if it were not possible, then God would not have commanded it.

-Husbands must ask God for His love in order to love their wives as Christ loves the church.

-Should a wife force her husband to love her?

-No.

-This is the work of God the Holy Spirit in the heart of the husband.

-How can a wife help her husband to love her?

-By submitting to him.

-As Christ gave Himself up for the church, husbands are to

give themselves up for their wives.

Let's read Ephesians 5:25-27

25-Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

26-to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,

27-and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

-What is the result of a husband loving his wife as Christ loves the church?

-His love cleanses her and makes her holy.

-Just as Christ's love cleanses us and makes us holy, the love of Christ from a husband does the same to his wife.

-Just as Christ's love presents us without stain or wrinkle or blemish, the love of Christ from a husband does the same to his wife.

-A Christian husband's love protects his wife from the evil of the world.

-A Christian husband's love does not condemn his wife, but rather looks to keep his wife from sin.

-A Christian husband's love for his wife purifies her, and

presents her holy to the Lord Jesus.

-How is anyone purified and presented holy before God?

-Through the Word of God.

-Therefore, a Christian husband should not only teach his wife the Word of God, but also be a godly example to her with his own obedience to Christ.

-Just as the Lord Jesus cleansed the Church by His obedience, so husbands should cleanse their wives by their example of obedience.

-God and Paul continue teaching about the role of the husband in the family.

Let's read Ephesians 5:28-30

28-In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

29-After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—

30-for we are members of his body

-Not only should husbands love their wives as Christ loves the church, but also love their wives as their own bodies.

-Does a man feed and care for his own body?

-Yes.

-A husband should also feed and care for his wife.

-Does a man provide himself a home to live in?

-Yes.

-A husband should also provide his wife with a home to live in.

-Does a man protect himself from evil?

-Yes.

-A husband should also protect his wife from evil.

-Does a man hurt his own body on purpose?

-No.

-Neither should a husband hurt his wife on purpose.

-When a wife needs help, her husband gives her help.

-When a wife needs encouragement, her husband gives her encouragement.

-As Ephesians 5:28 teaches us, a husband who loves his wife loves himself.

-How can it be that a husband who loves his wife loves himself?

-By loving and caring for his wife, a husband is also loving himself because if his wife does well, then he will do well.

Let's read Ephesians 5:31

31-"For this reason a man will leave his father and

mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”

-This verse is from Genesis 2:24, and teaches us that a man united with his wife will become one flesh.

-What does it mean for a man to leave his father and mother?

-It means to have permission and blessing from the father and mother to marry.

-The father and mother help their children to know the right person to marry as well as the right time to marry.

-What does it mean that a man and his wife be united to one another?

-It means that a husband and wife should be committed to one another for all of their lives.

-What does it mean that the two will become one flesh?

-It means that God has made two people as one, and that they should no longer see themselves as two people, but one person.

-All that the husband has should also belong to his wife, and all that the wife has should belong to her husband.

-When should a husband and wife have a physical relationship?

-After receiving the permission of the parents and committing themselves to one another in marriage for life.

-After our relationship with God, marriage is the most important relationship that we will ever have.

Let's read Ephesians 5:32

32-This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

33-However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

-What is the mystery?

-That the marriage of a man and woman is a picture of the Lord Jesus and the Church.

-In the picture, Christ is the bridegroom and the Church is the bride.

-Why is it important for a married man and woman not to divorce?

-Because marriage is a picture of Jesus' love for us, and how He will never leave us.

-God and Paul end the teaching on husbands and wives by reminding us of our responsibilities.

-Husbands must love their wives and wives must respect their husbands in the power of the Holy Spirit.

-Beginning with chapter 6, God and Paul teach about children.

Let's read Ephesians 6:1

1-Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

-Who has commanded children to obey their fathers and mothers?

-God.

-Why is it important for children to obey their fathers and mothers?

-To obey our fathers and mothers teaches children to submit themselves to their parents.

-If children can learn to submit themselves to their fathers and mothers, this will help them to submit themselves to God.

-Disobedient children not only do not submit themselves to their fathers and mothers, but they also struggle submitting themselves to God.

-If we read Ephesians 6:1 again, we read that children are to obey their parents in the Lord.

-To obey our fathers and mothers is to please God.

-To obey our fathers and mothers is to obey God.

-To obey our fathers and mothers is right before God.

-If the children believe in Christ, but the father and mother do not, should the children obey them?

-Yes.

-The obedience of the children is a testimony for Christ, and this may help the father and mother to believe in Christ.

-The obedience of children should be immediate, joyful, and complete.

-Should children obey their parents if they command them to disobey God's Word?

-No.

Let's read Ephesians 6:2-3

2—"Honor your father and mother"—which is the first commandment with a promise—

3—"so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

-The verses above are from the book of Exodus and the fifth commandment that God gave Moses and Israel.

-Why should children honor their fathers and mothers?

-So that life would go well, and that they would enjoy long

life on the earth.

-Disobedience of parents may be one reason why children are not well.

-Disobedience of parents is the same as disobeying God, and may result in early death.

Let's read Ephesians 6:4

4-Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

-God and Paul are teaching fathers not to irritate their children.

-How do fathers and mothers irritate their children?

-By not being patient with them.

-By being too angry with them.

-By never encouraging them.

-By punishing them when it is not their fault.

-By punishing them too severely.

-If fathers and mothers irritate their children too much, this can make the children bitter and angry.

-How should we bring up our children if we want them to love and respect us?

-We should ask God in us to teach them in love.

-Instead of irritating our children, what do God and Paul teach us to do?

-To bring up our children by teaching them about God.

-To whom has God given the primary work of teaching their children about God?

-Fathers.

-Should mothers also help to teach their children?

-Yes.

-Mothers should help, but the fathers should be the main teachers of the children.

-Is it right that many fathers leave the teaching of their children to their wives?

-No.

-God made the husband head of the wife, and gave him the main responsibility of teaching his children.

-The wife is the helper and should help her husband to teach the children.

-Is it right that many fathers leave the teaching of their children to the church?

-No.

-Ephesians 6:4 teaches us that God wants the father to be the primary teacher for teaching his children about God.

-Fathers should gather together their family and teach them about God every day.

-Even if a father cannot read, one of the children should be able to read.

-Yet, the father should learn to read so that he can read and teach the Word of God to his family.

-When is the best time to gather together the family to hear the Word of God?

-In the evening before everyone goes to sleep.

-With which book of the Bible should the father begin teaching?

-With Genesis, as it is the foundation of all of the Bible.

-A father could also teach his family lessons that you have been taught in church.

-If a father teaches his family every day, he will learn how to teach others, and will be able to teach others outside of his family.

-When Paul wrote this letter to the Ephesians, many people who had believed in Christ were slaves working for others.

-Yet, these words from God and Paul also apply to all of us who work for others.

Let's read Ephesians 6:5-6

5-Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

6-Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.

-How does our God want us to behave toward those for whom we work?

-God wants us to obey with respect, with fear, and with a sincere heart.

-What does obeying "with fear" mean?

-It means that we should honor God and our boss to the point of being afraid that our work would not be pleasing to them.

-Sometimes workers just sit and talk when they should be working.

-Then, when the boss comes, they jump up and begin to work.

-Should Christians only work hard when their boss is watching them?

-No.

-If our boss is not nice to us, should we do poor work?

-No.

-This does not honor us, it does not honor our boss, nor does it honor God.

Let's read Ephesians 6:7-8

7-Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,

8-because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

-God and Paul teach us to work as if we were working for the Lord, not people,

-Even though Christians work for their boss, we are also working for the Lord.

-We should dedicate our work to God and work for Him as we work for others.

-Even if our boss does not appreciate our work, does God appreciate it?

-Yes.

-Where will our reward be?

-It will be in heaven.

Let's read Ephesians 6:9

9-And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

-How must bosses treat their workers?

-In a fair manner, remembering that God sees both the boss and the workers.

-Does Jesus have any favorites?

-No.

-Master or slave, employer or employee, rich or poor, are all the same to Him.