



Sermon Series: Ephesians: Together in Christ
Text: Ephesians 5:21-6:9
Delivered: October 23rd, 2023
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Gospel-Shaped Relationships

Big Idea: *The gospel is meant to shape our relationships.*
Big Question: *How should the gospel shape our relationships?*

- 1) Gospel _____ – We are meant to see other people through the lens of the gospel.

- 2) Gospel _____ – Authority is a God-given means to love and serve others.
 1. Authority is a _____ (that can be terribly abused).
 2. Authority is meant to be exercised for the _____ of _____.

- 3) Gospel _____ – We are meant to live in our relationships to please God.

- 4) Gospel _____ – Our relationships are meant to display the truth of who God is.

- 5) Gospel _____ – Our relationships are FOR us, but they are not ABOUT us.
 1. God's purpose in our relationships is for us to _____ to Christ.
 2. God's purpose in our relationships is to make _____ like Christ.

- 6) Gospel _____ – Our Hope for the future impacts how we live in our relationships in the present.
 1. The _____ will be replaced by the _____.
 2. Relationships will one day be _____.

- 7) Gospel _____ – Our relationships expose our need for more of God's mercy and grace.

What are some of the ways relationships have made your life more challenging or difficult? What are some of the ways relationships have made your life better and more enjoyable?

Are there people that you most struggle to see through the lens of the gospel? How might seeing them through this lens change both how you view and treat them?

When you hear words like submit and authority what comes to mind? What are ways you have seen authority used well and in a Christlike manner?



*In your own life what authorities are you under and what positions of authority (or influence are you in)?
What are specific ways you can use your authority and influence for the good of others?*

What are the relationships where you feel the most pressure to please other people in? What impact could seeing that the only one you need to please in that relationship is God have on you?

Where have you seen the truth of what God is like pictured and displayed in your own relationships or other people's relationships? (If you are in a CARE Group try to highlight where you have seen this in other people in your CARE Group).

What are some of the practical ways you seek to point other people to Christ in your relationships (think kids, spouses, friends, etc)?

What impact should the hope of the gospel have on both the good and bad of relationships here and now?

Where have relationships exposed more of your own sinfulness? How do you respond in those moments?

What is one relationship where you most need God's grace right now? Be specific in sharing what grace you need for this relationship. Spend some time praying to God and asking him for His grace in this area. (If you are in a CARE Group pray together for one another here)

Further Resources

- [Relationships: A Mess Worth Making – Paul Tripp and Tim Lane](#)
- [The Story of Marriage – Keystone Church](#)
- [Why It's Wrong To Say the Bible is Pro-Slavery – Gavin Ortlund](#)
- [Slavery Old and New – Thomas Kidd](#)