

SUPREME

PASTOR ED NEWTON NOV. 18 & 19 RULES FOR ENGAGEMENT

Community Bible Church
Sermon Discussion Questions: Nov 19, 2023
Pastor Ed Newton

Title: Rules for Engagement

Text: Colossians 3:18-4:1

Target: *"If our faith doesn't work at home, then our faith doesn't work"* (Anonymous)

- I. **The Submission of a Wife:** *"Wives, submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord."* (Vs. 18)
 - A. **Doesn't mean Inequality:** Equal before God, for all must submit to God's Authority.
 - B. **Doesn't permit oppression:** Not property or possession, but to be viewed in value and worth.
 - C. **Does speak to provide Support:** Empowering Spiritual Headship the husband.

- II. **The Selflessness of a Husband:** *"Husbands, love your wives, and do not be harsh with them."* (Vs. 19)
 - A. **Sacrifice for her:** *"love her as Christ loved the church"* (Eph. 5:25)
 - B. **Sanctify her:** *"washing of water with the word"* (Eph. 5:26)
 - C. **Sustain her:** *"love their wives as their own bodies"* (Eph. 5:28)
 - D. **Satisfies her:** *"but nourishes and cherishes"* (Eph. 5:29)

Question #1: Read Ephesians 5:22-33 together. In verse 32, Paul refers to marriage as "a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church." *In what ways do we see our ongoing relationship with Christ in the picture of Biblical marriage? How should we understand the Church being the "Bride of Christ?"*

Question #2: For those who are married, *what's difficult about putting your spouse's interests above your own? What does it look like when it's done well? How do you feel when your spouse loves and serves you well?*

III. **The Sentiment of a Child:** *“Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.”* (Vs. 20)

A. Explanation of Obedience: *“Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right”* (Ephesians 6:1)

1. Given by God to be authority.
2. Come under the authority to listen, learn, and be led. (Proverbs 1:8, 6:20)

B. Expectation of Honor: *“Honor your father and mother, that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you”* (Ex. 20:12)

Question #3: While direct obedience to parents might end at an age when a person transitions into young adulthood, the command to honor never ends. *What are the practical and spiritual ways we carry out the command to “honor” even into our adulthood? How can we show honor to our parents in the midst of disagreements or if they do not live Godly lives?*

IV. **The Sensitivity of a Father:** *“Fathers, do not provoke your children, lest they become discouraged.”* (Vs. 21)

A. Definition of Provoke: stir up, irritate, exasperate, or nagging.

B. Descriptions of Provoking: (unfair comparisons, unkind comments, unclear standards, unexplained discipline, unrighteous example, uptight control, unified identity)

Question #4: *What does it mean to provoke your children? What are some approaches to discipline or general ways you can encourage them toward Godly living? Even if you don't have kids, how can you model the selfless love of Jesus to those younger than you?*

V. **The Service of an Employee:** *“Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord.”* (Vs. 22)

A. Work Heartily: *“Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men,”* (Vs.23)

B. Rich Reward: *“knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ.”* (Vs. 24)

C. Never Overlooked: *“For the wrongdoer will be paid back for the wrong he has done, and there is no partiality.”* (Vs. 25)

Question #5: *What comfort do we have knowing God sees all our effort, hard work, and even unfair circumstances we endure? What changes could you make to your attitude, commitment, and diligence at work to better honor God?*

- VI. The Stewardship of a Supervisor:** *“Masters, treat your bondservants justly and fairly, knowing that you also have a Master in heaven.” (Vs. 4:1)*
- A. Be the Example:** Say as you say, do as you do.
 - B. Clarify the Expectation:** Clarity is Kindness
 - C. Speak with Exaltation:** Call people up, not just out.
 - D. Compensate within Exhortation:** Marketplace Value.

Takeaway: *“Become the kind of leader that people would follow voluntarily, even if you had no title or position”* Brian Tracy

Question #6: *How can we influence others' lives without relying on formal titles like supervisor or leader? What values or outcomes should positive influence ideally foster in the lives of others?*