



Series: How do WE walk with Christ? (01)

Title: Love the people in your life (How Esther points us to Jesus)

Scripture: Phil. 2:3-11; Eph. 5:21-33, 6:1-4; Esther

Truth: It is a spiritual discipline to love the people in your life.

The Basics of Following Christ and Loving the People in Your Life Philippians 2:4-11

- 1) Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit. (v. 3)
- 2) Count others more significant than yourself. (v. 3)
- 3) Look to the interests of others as you daily care for yourself. (v. 4)
- 4) Use the mind/attitude of Christ that you already possess. (v. 5)
 - Don't use your position for recognition.
 - Humble yourself before God and men.
 - Use your life station to serve others.
 - Be obedient to God in life even unto death.
 - Bow to Jesus daily in worship and prayer.
 - Confess Jesus as Lord.

Loving Your Family, Church Family, and the World Ephesians 5:21-33

- 1) Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ (Singles, Married, Widows, Widowers - in every Christian relationship). (v. 21)
- 2) Wives, respect your husband. (v. 33)
 - a) Submit to your husband as to the Lord. (v. 22-24)
- 3) Husbands, love your wives as yourself and as Christ loved the church. (v. 25, 33)
 - a) Give yourself up for your wife. (v. 26)
 - b) Sanctify her by washing her with the Word of God. (v. 26)
 - c) Love her like your own body. (v. 28)
 - i) Nourish your wife. (v. 29)
 - ii) Cherish your wife. (v. 29)
 - d) Ensure that you and your wife are serving the body of Christ. (v. 30)

- 4) Married people, leave Mom and Dad and support yourselves. (v. 31)
 - a) Hold fast to one another for spiritual, emotional, physical, and financial support. (v. 31)
 - b) Husbands and Wives, it is a command of God to be one flesh with your spouse.
 - i) You don't seek to please yourself.
 - ii) You do not unite in flesh with anyone else.
 - iii) You will bless your children better by doing what God said do, and being what God said be, with your spouse.
- 5) Married people, you display the gospel to all through the way you live with and love your spouse. (v. 32)

Loving Your Immediate Family Ephesians 6:1-4

- 1) Children, obey your parents (Deferred obedience is disobedience). (v. 1)
- 2) Children, honor your parents your entire life. (v. 2-3)
 - a) This is the first commandment from God that comes with a promise of what He will do.
- 3) Fathers, bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (v. 4)
 - a) Lead them to love the Lord and His word (teach & model the Word).
 - b) Lead them to love doing right (spend time, instruct, train).
 - c) Lead them to love responsibility and accountability to the people and processes of life.
- 4) Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. (v. 4)
 - a) Treating them harshly provokes them to anger.
 - b) Not leading them to love provokes them to anger.

Biblical Examples of the Spiritual Discipline of Loving the People in Your Life

1. **Ahasuerus/Xerxes (King)** - married and not a God follower
 - He didn't love his wife and didn't give himself up for her.
 - He was boastful, a drinker, and vindictive to the people in his life.
 - He made wrong decisions because he sought the counsel of young single men who did not follow God.
2. **Vashti (Queen)** - married and not a God follower
 - She did not respect her husband and did not submit to him.
 - She followed the eye for an eye principle with the people in her life - the King dishonored her and she dishonored him.
3. **Haman (Visier)** - married and not a God follower
 - He did not submit to anyone.
 - He did not look to the interests of others.
 - He used his position for his own recognition.

4. Mordecai (Uncle) - single and a God follower

- He bowed to God only and lead as a father to Esther.
- He lead Esther to love doing the right thing and her God.
- He lead Esther to love responsibility and accountability to the people and processes of life.

5. Esther (Maiden, Queen) - single, engaged, then married and a God follower

- She honored her father and mother.
- She submitted to her husband (who was not a God follower).
- She used her life station to serve others.
- She was obedient to God even unto death.

6. Hathach (Eunuch) - single and served a God follower

- He looked to the interests of others
- He submitted to others out of reverence for God.

7. GOD (Sovereign LORD over everything) - Ever present even if He's not mentioned.

- He works through lost sinners.
- He fulfills His promises to His people.
- He is faithful to His covenant.
- He is Jesus and He is a better King.