

## **Mar 30/25 (Leader's Guide)**

### **"Spirit-Filled Relationships, Part 2" – Ephesians 5:18b, 21, 6:1-9**

1. How does 'be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ' have within it the power to break down injustice?

*All injustice results from one human treating another human less like a human. This verse, and this passage from Paul, brings everyone to a level of equality where we are walking in love and submission to one another.*

2. What are 'household codes'? Why are Paul's 'household codes' different from the norms of the day?

*Household codes were the instructions given to men on how to manage their property, including wives, children, and slaves. Paul upends the household code model by giving instructions directly to everyone – women, children, slaves, and masters, thus treating them all as equal and equally human.*

3. Why should children obey their parents? How would "in the Lord" be encouraging for kids?

*Paul mentions three things: 1) it's natural; 2) it's in the 10 commandments; and 3) "in the Lord" – i.e., because this is how Christ taught us to live – in submission to one another, including in obedience to parents. And Christ knew well what it meant to be subject to parents who didn't always understand him (cf Luke 2:41-51), but he also knew what it meant to obey his Father even when it led to his own death.*

4. How does Paul's vision of a new humanity offer a way forward to parents?

*He tells them not to provoke their children, but to make it easy to obey, and also to bring them up 'in the Lord' – again, offering a vision of a new humanity that is hopeful, appealing, and exciting for kids.*

5. Karen compares the ubiquitousness of slave labour in the first century to electricity in ours. How does this analogy help or not help in understanding the world Paul was writing into?

*All of society was intertwined with slave labour, the way our society depends on electricity. We use 'dirty power' even though we know that it is harming the earth, but we long and work for a day where clean energy is the norm. Trying to decree it instantly, however, would lead to the collapse of society.*

6. How does the image of working in Christ's household as a "servant for Christ" connect with you? Does it change the way you might approach daily tasks as an employer or employee, a parent or a student? *Allow space for discussion.*