Lownes Free Church Sunday Morning – November 10, 2019

Speaker: Rob Ladonne

**The Mystery and Majesty**

**Of Jesus Christ**

***How Jesus has recast Christian relationships***

Ephesians 5:21-6:9

● **21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.** *We are all called to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Submission in the body of Christ is never forced. It is willful. It is deeply satisfying. It is free from any thoughts that we are superior or inferior to someone. It is a voluntary yielding in obedience to God and out of reverence for Jesus Christ.*

● **22Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything**.

 ○ *God’s Word says that as wives willingly submit themselves to their husbands, they do so “as you do to the Lord” This submission takes place not because her husband is superior to her, or that he has asked this of her, but because her submission is in line with God’s design for a beautiful and godly marriage. In submitting herself to her husband, she is obeying The Lord.*

 ○ *A wife’s submission to her husband is based upon God’s declaration that the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church. As one commentator shared, “It is an appeal to one who is equal by creation and redemption (the wife) to submit to the authority God has ordained.”*

 ○ *The humble and godly wife, who remains open to the leading of The Holy Spirit, and the instruction of God’s word, will come to understand how God has called her to relate to her husband.*

● **25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30for we are members of his body. 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.” 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

 ○ *Paul is clear that with the coming of Christ, the husband is to love his wife as Christ loved the church. Christ loved the church with a deep, sacrificial, nourishing and cherishing love, as He “gave Himself up for her” on the cross to make her “holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word.” So the husband is to love his wife with a deep, sacrificial, nourishing and cherishing love that is for her benefit. The husband should be willing to go to great lengths to love, protect and provide for her. It is to be a selfless love, as he cares for her as he would care for himself, for both he and his wife are decreed by God to be one flesh.*

 ○ *While the husband is clearly not called to “make his wife holy, or to cleanse her,” He is called to love her in such a way that she is encouraged, and strengthened and exhorted to live for Christ and flourish as a person.*

● **1Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 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.”**

○ *How a child lives before God matters, and God has declared that honoring and obeying their parents and listening to their advice is a big part of that. God has also has also indicated that by living this way, “it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” This is not a promise that a child will live a long life, but a child’s life will be better when they obey their parents.*

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

○ *Fathers are obligated before the Lord to treat their children certain ways and not to “exasperate” them. This means that they should not be placing unreasonable demands on them the point where they give up or lose heart. Instead they should be bringing them up in the ways of God, which are firm, wise, pleasing and beneficial to them.*

● **5Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6Obey 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. 7Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.**

 ○ *Paul exhorted slaves in his time to serve as if they were serving the Lord Himself. Their supreme allegiance was to God. They were to remember that while they were a slave to man, they were the Lord’s freeman. They were to let this define how they interacted and worked for them. While their rewards may have been minimal on earth, by serving this way, they were storing up for themselves treasure in heaven.*

● **9And 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.**

○ *Masters of slaves were to remember that Jesus Christ was their Master! They were to treat their slave well, and with respect, and to do this with sincerity of heart, remembering that it was the Lord who they would answer to. They were to consider all that God called them to in how to treat others applied to how they treated their slave, for there was no difference between them other than one of earthly position.*

***So, how are we to apply what we have heard today***

***and why does it matter?***

● **In our relationships with one another, we are to have the same mindset as Christ Jesus** – *and that is to be humble and willing to be a servant to all. We must be ready to empty ourselves of our pride, and submit to one another. This is an imitation of Christ.*