

## **Relationships** **Ephesians 4:1-6**

One of the most practical lessons for Christians is that of how Christ and His word is to guide us in all relationships

When one submits to authority of Christ, as a Baptized, penitent believer, he is taught no longer "runs his own life" but has been bought with a price by Christ and belongs to Him - **1Corinthians 6:19-20; 2Corinthians 10:5**

Must clearly see we can't maintain proper relationship to Christ without proper conduct in relationships of life. Can't have one without other

### **Most Exist Apart From The Fact We Are Christian**

Born into this world physically immediately has some relationships

Home: family relationships - parents, brothers, sisters

Government: civil - becomes a citizen

Later the individual may enter voluntarily into other relationships

Marriage: husband, wife, father, mother, children, etc

Economic: business - farming, store, factory, etc

Social: community - neighbors, schools, etc

Religious: church, congregation

All of these can and do exist and one not be a Christian

### **Relationship As Christian Regulates All Other Relationships**

When one is "in Christ" he is a "new creature" - **2Corinthians 5:17**

This "inness" effects all things of life -- some have to be "out"

Relationship to Christ and Christians is primary -- "a first" -- we must guard it against disruption -

**Matthew 6:33; 1John 1:6-7; Ephesians 4:1-3**

Family relationship - Home - teachings of Christ regulate our family life and show us the way to true happiness in this relationships.

Husband - wife - **Ephesians 5:22-33; Colossians 3:18-19; 1Peter 3:1-2,7**

Parent - child - **Ephesians 6:4; Colossians 3:21; 2Corinthians 12:14**

Child - parent - **Ephesians 6:1-3; Colossians 3:20; 1Timothy 5:4,16**

Civil relationship "Government"

Respected by Christian recognized as minister of God - **Romans 13:1-6**

Its purpose - punish evildoers, praise them do well - **1Peter 2:13-15**

Economic relationship - Business

Work to supply needs - **1Thessalonians 4:11-12; 1Timothy 5:8; Ephesians 4:28; 2Thessalonians 3:10-12**

Principles of Christ to be recognized

Servant render as to Christ and not man - **Ephesians 6:5-8; Colossians 3:22-25**

Masters to treat servants right - **Ephesians 6:9; Colossians 4:1**

Social relationship - Community

Relationship in general - **1Peter 2:12; Colossians 4:5**

Principles of Christ

Who is my neighbor - **Luke 10:25-37**

Don't show respect because of outward appearance - **James 2:1-12; Romans 13:10**

Religious relationship - Church - congregation

Imitate humility, meek & gentle Christ - **Philippians 2:5-11; 2Corinthians 10:1**

Consider one another always - **Philippians 2:1-4; Hebrews 10:24**

Honor one another - **Romans 2:10**

Teach, admonish, restore - **Colossians 3:16; Galatians 6:1; Ephesians 5:18-21**

Each do part to build up church - **1Corinthians 12:14-27; Ephesians 4:14-16**

### **Failure In These Relationships Affects Our Relationship To Christ**

"Provide" involves more than just financial support - **1Timothy 5:8; 1Peter 3:7**

We respect Government for conscience sake - **Romans 13:5**

We must work as servant of Christ, doing will of God from the heart - **Ephesians 6:6; Titus 2:10**

We influence others in the community - **Matthew 5:13-16**

Can't love God and hate brother - **1John 4:20-21**

**Must Respect Priorities - Relationship To Christ Above All**

Can't put family above Christ - He is first - **Matthew 10:37**

God is higher than governments - **Acts 4:19; 5:29**

God recognizes need to make a living - **Matthew 6:19-34,32**

Yet, there are priorities - **Matthew 6:33**

God through Christ has authority over church - **Colossians 1:18**

Just as necessary to please God in home, in business, in civil affairs, and social contacts as in the church.

If relationship in these is not right, he is not a Christian no matter how faithful in the work and worship of the church

Christian life embraces every relationship 24 hours a day

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