

Word Notes Sunday 05/03/17
Keziah & Klara – NCC United: Look for the Goal

Summary (read this bit out to remind cell members what was said on Sunday, listen to the podcast if you missed the talk <http://www.newmarketcommunitychurch.co.uk/podcasts.htm>)

Key Text: Ephesians 6:1 - 4

Balancing obeying God, with obeying parents.

Jesus was lost – or so his parents thought (Luke 2:41-49). “*Didn’t you know I had to be in my Father’s house?*” Had Jesus been obedient to his parents, did he honour them? Jesus’ Father was God, he had to follow God. He also had earthly parents who he obeyed. Plus, he himself was God! Even though he was God, God was his true Father, he still chose to be obedient to his Earthly parents. Even though he knew better than them!

When we struggle to obey those in authority over us – whether it’s parents, or “masters” as in the rest of the Ephesians passage, it may be that we feel we really do know better than them. We may think they are wrong or unfair. Remember that Jesus obeyed his parents. He of all people really did know better than them. He of all people was superior to them, he deserved to be the one in charge! And yet he chose to follow God’s way and submit himself to be obedient to others. As a child, he chose to be obedient to his earthly parents, as an adult to be obedient to the Roman authorities who sentenced him death. His obedience to his parents and his obedience to death came from his obedience to his heavenly Father.

Our goal in all these relationships is not to prove ourselves better, or to get what we want. Our goal is to be obedient to God, trusting that when we follow his way he will work all things together for our good.

As parents we should set good boundaries to help our children. Both children and adults should honour their parents – something that changes as our relationship grow and mature.

Paul’s clear instruction to fathers (which applies just as well to mothers) not to “provoke to anger” comes with the advice to “bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. How?

- **Get involved**, Paul speaks in the present tense, in other words NOW.
- **Train**, this is past tense, reflectively - How’s your day been?
- **Instruct**, now he speaks in the future tense - help them think through their decisions and futures.
- **In the Lord** - don't only invest time in world things and needs or morals but in the Lord, knowing him, relying on him, moulding their lives after him.

Application (this is the bit where cell members get to participate. Lead discussions around these points)

“Our goal in all these relationships is not to prove ourselves better, or to get what we want. Our goal is to be obedient to God, trusting that when we follow his way he will work all things together for our good.”

- 1) Everyone:
 - a) How do you honour your parents? Is it still important after you have left home? What about once they have passed away?
 - b) If the relationship was or is abusive in any way what then?
- 2) Parents:
 - a) Do you actively spend time with your children, is it part of your routine or blocked out in your diary? How does/should this change as they grow and mature?
- 3) Masters – are you a “boss”?
 - a) How do you treat those in your charge?
 - b) Do you know company policy, workplace law etc so you can be obedient in that way?
 - c) If you are a boss what’s the best way to witness your faith?
- 4) How can having Christ living in you bring fresh life to these relationships?

Witness (*this is the bit where the cell talks, plans and prays about how to share the Good News*)

Jesus said: *“By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”* John 13:35.
Who was he talking to, what does that mean to us as a fellowship and how can we grow together in this?