

Scripture: Ephesians 5:21-6:9

LD. 39 (1)

Singing: 57:1-3 – 137: 4, 5, 6 – 393:1, 3 – 288:2 – 435:1, 6, 9

INTRODUCTION TO THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

I. The importance II. The breadth

I. THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FIFTH COMMANDMENT

A. Because the spiritual battle against Satan has entered a critical phase

B. Because it is the basis of the well-being of all human relationships

II. THE BREADTH OF 5TH COMMANDMENT

A. God's law in the Ten Commandment is *shortest exposition* of His will

1. Yet in Ps. 119:96 David stated: *Thy commandment is exceeding broad*

2. We miss the breadth of 5th when we limit the 5th to just Eph. 6:1-2!

B. Paul's exposition of the 5th runs from Eph. 5:21-6:9

1. Paul reviews three *relationship structures*

2. Notice *how* Paul begins the teaching on *relationship structures*

a. it begins with a general call to submission: Eph. 5:21

3. What is meant with *submission*?

a. not a *negative* element in relationships

b. instead it is *positive* embracing of God's will for all (!)

- Biblical Submission is mutual respect – care – serving

- We submit not to advantage ourselves but to serve others to do their task according to God's will.

- C. Observe God speaks to all parties in a relationship structure
 - 1. What is God's reason for this public teaching about each other?
 - a. not to give ammunition to admonish the others!

- b. but to give us information how to make the task of others easier

Final reflection and take away:

A. Any repenting to do today in how we manage our relationships?

B. Be inspired and encouraged by Jesus' *submission and leadership*