

Godly Relationships

**Embry Hills Church of Christ
Fall 2020**

Godly Relationships

Definition of Godliness; Discussion of Influence

Lesson 1

Course overview

Lesson	Title	Content	Date
Foundational Lessons			
1	Introduction and Overview	Introduction – Godliness and Influence	Sun. Sept. 20, 2020
2	Purity and the Nature of Men and Women	Purity, the differences of Men and Women	Wed. Sept. 23, 2020
3	Selflessness and Sacrifice	Selflessness, Humility, Meekness	Sun. Sept. 27, 2020
4	Contentment and Kindness	Contentment and Kindness	Wed. Sept. 30, 2020
5	Forbearance and Forgiveness	Forbearance and Forgiveness	Sun. Oct. 4, 2020
Lessons on Specific Relationships			
6	Friends and Co-Workers	A Christian's interactions with friends and co-workers	Wed. Oct. 7, 2020
7	Parents and Family	The relationship of adult children with their parents and extended family	Sun. Oct. 11, 2020
8	Dating and Marriage	Exercising godliness when dating or married	Wed. Oct. 14, 2020
Case Studies			
9	Case Studies 1	Demonstrating godly influence with friends and co-workers	Sun. Oct. 18, 2020
10	Case Studies 2	Godly use of social media	Wed. Oct. 21, 2020
11	Case Studies 3	Parents and Children	Sun. Oct. 25, 2020
12	Case Studies 4	Maintaining purity	Wed. Oct. 28, 2020
13	Case Studies 5 and Review	Living alone - a life of service and purpose	Sun. Nov. 1, 2020

A. Godliness

1. Godliness defined
 - a. Greek *eusebia* – literally, "to worship well", "to be very devout"
 - b. Vine: "A piety ... characterized by a God-ward attitude; does what is well-pleasing to Him"
 - c. ISBE: "character & conduct determined by the principle of love or fear of God in the heart"
 - d. God-centered living: learning, obeying, with all decisions & actions informed by accountability to God and desire to please Him.
2. Godliness expressed and developed
 - a. For what kind of things is godliness useful (I Tim 4:8)?
 - b. Is it commanded of both men & women? How is it expressed (I Tim 2:2, 10)?
 - c. What kind of living is associated with "godliness" (II Pet 3:11)?

B. *Opposite of godliness: earth centered, or self-centered*

1. Ps 1:1-5 – vs 1, also translated “wicked” [ESV]
2. For whom is law needed? Why? (I Tim 1:9)
3. What is the fate of the ungodly in judgment (I Pet 4:18; II Pet 2:6; 3:7; Jude 4,15,18)?

C. *With a God-centered view, what is the purpose of family relationships?*

1. Ephesians 5:25-27, I Corinthians 7:13,16
2. I Peter 3:1
3. Ephesians 6:4; Proverbs 23:13,14; III John 3,4

D. *Relationships and Influence*

1. Are all relationships beneficial to building godliness in ourselves or others? Should we always work to strengthen every relationship in our lives? When should we not?
 - a. II Timothy 3:5
 - b. Titus 3:10; I Cor. 5:11; II John 10-11;
 - c. Galatians 6:1c
 - d. II Cor 6:14-16
 - e. I Cor 15:33
2. How was Timothy to regulate his relationships with other Christians (I Tim 5:1-2)?
3. List (by first name) someone in your life who:
 - a. Has great influence (emotional, intellectual, financial, direct supervision, or other interdependency) on you, and is an encouragement to godliness (or preventive force for ungodliness, impurity, or unbelief)
 - b. Has only limited influence (though you have frequent contact), but is an encouragement to godliness and purity
 - c. Has (or could grow to have) great influence, but is an influence toward ungodliness (or temptation to give in to desires like anger, gossip, dishonesty, vulgarity, or other immorality)
 - d. Has little influence (though you have frequent contact) on you, but is an influence toward ungodliness, impurity, or unbelief.

E. *In-Class Discussion Questions*

1. How is godliness related to:
 - a. Identity and self-image
 - b. Purpose and motive for decisions and actions
 - c. Wisdom and interpretation of life events
 - d. Personal strength and security (endurance)
 - e. Repentance and restoration
2. As we assess the various relationships in our lives, should some of these be strengthened? Some weakened? Some evaluated and/or tested? On what basis and for what purpose?
3. List some practical ways to measure/assess godliness in ourselves:
4. What are ways of strengthening or diminishing the influence that relationships have on us?