

Text: Eph. 5:22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.” Eph. 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.” Eph. 6:1 “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.” Eph. 6:4 “And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.” Eph. 6:5 “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.” Eph. 6:9 “And 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.”

Intro: Paul defines the Christian home and gives the standard of all things in the home which is the believers relationship to Jesus and His Church.

— Eph. 5:22 “Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.”

—The Greek word translated “submit” is ὑποτάσσω hypotassō means to arrange under, as in an order, (Father, Son, Holy Spirit).

—This is not demeaning, nor a position of servanthood or doormat—It is a position of order in the home as there is a hierarchy in heaven.

—It goes back to the creation of the first couple—Gen. 2:18 “The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

—The word “helper” is from the Hebrew עֵזֶר ‘ēzer simply meaning assistance; one who gives aid, support and strength.

—The word translated “suitable” carries the meaning of one obviously like him in kind; one which the man could easily relate.

—Paul shows the pattern of the home—1Cor. 11:3 “But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”

—Marriage is interpreted in the highest of terms; it is compared with the marriage of the Lamb to his bride—Eph. 5:24 “Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands...”

—Eph. 5:25 “Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.”

—Roman culture held that wives had duties to the husband, but the husband had no duty to the wife; Paul counters that cultural thinking.

—Christianity introduced a revolutionary approach to marriage that equalized the rights of wives and husbands and established the institution on a much firmer foundation than ever before.

—The standard of love in marriage for the husband **is the love that Jesus has for His Church.**

—***Eph. 5:28*** “In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.”

—Self-love is also a pattern of love for his wife; even though the husband lives in an imperfect body, he loves it, nourishes it, and cares for it.

—So intimate is the relationship between man and wife that they are fused into a single entity.

—**For a man to love his wife is to love himself.**

—She is to be regarded as an extension of a man’s own personality and so part of himself.

—Paul appeals to ***Gen. 2:24*** which he quotes—***Eph. 5:31*** “For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

—There is no longer two individuals, but now there is one married couple.

—There is no relationship that takes precedence of this relationship.

—Emotionally, spiritually, intellectually, financially, and in every other way, the couple is to become one.

—Physically, they become one flesh, and the result of that one flesh is found in the children that their union produces; these children now possess a special genetic makeup, specific to their union (***1Cor. 7:3-5***)

—The word “joined”, or “cleave” means to be glued; when you join to pieces of wood together with glue, it forms a bond that is stronger than the single piece of wood.

—Paul calls this relationship “a profound mystery” (v. 32); Paul means that he has explained the marriage relationship the best that he can but in many ways it defies words.

—He sums it up—*Eph. 5:33* “However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.”

— *Eph. 6:1* “Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.”

—Paul is addressing people who have come from a pagan culture into the new Christian community—Children held a lesser position than slaves in that day.

—As the Church is called to walk in obedience to Jesus, so children take that standard in the parental relationship.

—Paul in fact adds a moral standard in the phrase “for this is right.”

—He then appeals to the fifth commandment (*Deut 5:16*)—*Eph. 6:2* “Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise —“

—This was to be a part of the Israelite home; the home was to be a place of spiritual instruction—*Deut. 6:6–7* “These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.”

—Children are to listen and follow those teachings—*Eph. 6:3* “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

—Without this instruction the whole culture would fall into depravity—*Judge. 2:10–11* “After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the LORD nor what he had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the LORD and served the Baals.”

—*Eph. 6:4* “Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.”

—The word “***exasperate***” means to provoke them to anger by irritation of children, through loss of temper and violence in reproving them, through unsteady treatment and unreasonable commands.

—The problem is that a parent can close the spirit of the child to the Lord by the provoking behavior.

—***Prov. 22:6*** “Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.”

—***Eph. 6:5*** “Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, ***just as you would obey Christ.***”

—It is shocking to us to hear that the New Testament does not condemn slavery, but gives specific instruction on the slaves treatment.

—In that day, owners and slaves would attend the same Church, and the Church was not show preference of the owner over the slave.

—Let’s call this employee and employer relationship—***Eph. 6:7*** “Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men.”

—Work is honored in the Bible and the standard is that whatever we do we consider it service to the Lord—***Eph. 6:8*** “...you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.”

—***Eph. 6:9*** “And 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.***”

—Employer would treat those who work for them as Jesus treats them.

—Jesus is Master over employee and employer equally—***Eph. 6:9*** “there is no favoritism with him.”

The Believing Family
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