



Ephesians 5:21-6:4

EPH 5:21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

EPH 5:22 Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

EPH 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26 to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27 and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. 28 In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- 30 for we are members of his body. 31 "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." 32 This is a profound mystery--but I am talking about Christ and the church. 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. 2 "Honor your father and mother"--which is the first commandment with a promise-- 3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

EPH 6:4 Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

LIFE Community Leader's Guide

Sunday, May 27

Big Idea: God intends his people to have life-giving relationships with one another. It happens as families respect one another.

Key Verse: Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Opening Question: Who in your life has shown you respect? How was that respect shown?

Study/Discussion Questions:

- Read Ephesians 5.
- Paul wrote this letter to the church in Ephesus? Why do you think he gave so much attention to writing about family life?
- When you hear the word “submit”, what images or ideas come to mind? Are they positive or negative?
- In Pastor Bryan’s message, he argues that submit is better rendered “respect”. How are these two words connected?
- What might have been some of the household struggles that Paul was hoping to counteract by writing this letter?
- In his message, Bryan mentioned that respect is demonstrated differently for different members of the family:
 - Husbands show respect by **LOVING** their wives.
 - Wives show respect by **RESPECTING** their husbands.
 - Children show respect by **OBEYING** (and then **HONORING**) their parents.
 - Parents show respect by **NURTURING** their children.
- Brainstorm for a few minutes ways in which the messages in our society and/or culture undermine each one of these statements about how family members are to interact. Think of specific books, t.v. programs, movies, characters, or messages that are sent and/or received by families today.
- Throughout these verses, Christ is mentioned as each member of the household is addressed. What does our relationship with Christ have to do with how we submit to or respect one another?
- Notice that each of the commands are given specifically to the person who is responsible to live out that command (i.e. husbands are told to love, wives are encouraged to submit, children to obey, etc.) What happens when we are more vigilant about ‘policing’ someone else’s responsibility than we are with living up to our own responsibility?
- Are there places in your home-life that you have found success in fulfilling your particular responsibility? Are there places that are more challenging for you?
- Take some time at the end of your meeting to pray for each other and to encourage one another to live out Paul’s ideal for family life.