

Ephesians 5:22-33. *Wives & Husbands*. Since we're to submit to one another out of respect for the Christ, wives are to submit to their husbands as well. The husband is in charge of the wife's safety, just as the Christ keeps the church body safe. Just as the church submits to the Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands, in everything.

Even more challenging, husbands are to love their wives just as the Christ loved the church, giving Himself up for her. He makes her holy; in fact, His word cleanses her, presents her as a radiant, wrinkle-free, stain-free bride—holy and blameless (see Revelation 19:7-8 for more about her wedding gown).

Similarly, husbands must love his wife as he loves himself. He cares and feeds his own body—just as the Christ does the church body—we are members of His body. So? A man will leave his parents and cling to his wife—the two will become one. What a profound mystery this is, but of course, I'm talking about Christ and the church. Each one of you must also love your wife, just as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

EPHESIANS 5:22-33

Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord.

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

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing [or *having cleansed*] her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰for 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." [Genesis 2:24] ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- Q Why are wives to submit to their husbands? Why is this so difficult for some wives and husbands?
- Q Which is easier to fulfill, the role of the wife, or the role of the husband, given these admonitions through Paul by Holy Spirit?
- Q Why do men abuse their wives?
- Q When does a wife "not submit" to her husband? When does the husband stop loving his wife?
- Q What do wives fail at most when it comes to submitting "in everything?"
- Q And what do husbands fail at most when it comes to loving their wives as the Christ loved the church?
- Q About what do many wives have more difficulty respecting their husbands?

Ephesians 6:1-9. Children, Masters, Slaves. Similarly, children are to obey their parents in the Lord—this is the right thing to do. After all, it's one of the Ten Commandments and comes with a promise of long life. And, fathers, get off your high horse—don't exasperate your children—bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord God Yahweh.

Slaves obey your masters, respectfully and with fear, just as you would obey the Christ. Don't obey just to win your master's approval [ἄνθρωποι ἀρεσκῶν, men-pleasers], but serve wholeheartedly, just as if you were serving the Lord God and not merely mortal men. The Lord will reward everyone for their good they do, regardless of their status as slave or free.

Finally, masters submit to your slaves in the same way. Don't threaten them—you know their true Master is Jesus the Christ in heaven; He's your actual master, and theirs. Christ doesn't play favorites!

- Q What did your father or mother do that exasperated you, you know something about which Paul would have used as an example in verse 4?
- Q Have you continued that tradition, or refrained from similar exasperations?
- Q What is the correct translation of δούλοι, servant or slave? Are we slaves or servants of the Christ?
- Q What makes the role of slave honorable? The role of master difficult?

EPHESIANS 6:1-9

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." [Deuteronomy 5:16] ⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

[Following verses (5-9) were "skipped" by Lifeway.]

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

⁹And 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.