

FOUNDATIONS

week 5

Read: Ephesians 5:1-32 & 6:1-4 (Use two different translations for fuller understanding.)

What do we learn about God in this passage? What parts of His character are on display?

How does Paul's description on how to live the Christian life in v1-20 set believers up to fulfill the instructions that follow in how to live in a Christian household?

How do you see the command in verse 21 play out throughout the rest of the passage?

In the context of v22, what has to happen first before a Godly relationship is even possible with a husband? In what ways could a vibrant relationship with the Lord be reflected in a woman's relationship with her husband?

Read: Romans 5:6-11

What was the condition we were in when Christ died for us? Then recall, or read about in John 18-19, the experiences Jesus freely submitted to on the way to the cross on behalf of all believers for all time. If husbands are to love their wives like Christ loves the church, in that context, what kind of sacrificial love would that entail?

How would it change your marriage, or a potential future marriage, if both spouses loved each other from the context of the previous two questions?

For those who are parents, or hope to be parents one day, how should 6:4 shape the way you care for your children? How might this make 6:1-3 easier for your children?

Prayer:

Father, thank you for the gift of marriage and families. Lord, we lift up our sinful nature, our desire to control, and our misplaced priorities to you, and ask you to sift us, removing the junk, and leaving only what is of you. Help us to love each other well, to respect and honor each other, and do all of it out of our love for you. Help us to love our children like you love us, to show them mercy, grace, gentleness, and love, even in correction. Help our families to point each other back toward you throughout our day to day life, and to be a beautiful reflection of sacrificial love to those around us. In the name of Jesus, amen.

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EPHESIANS 5:21-6:9 (NIV)

Instructions for Christian Households

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

²² Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do 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.

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 their own body, but they feed and care for their body, 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.

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 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

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

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

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.

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