



DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: Ephesians 5:22-6:9

- 1) How does Ephesians 5:21 relate to each of the specific roles Paul mentions in 5:22-6:9?
- 2) Why do you think Paul chose to express "servanthood" differently in some of the six human relationships he addresses?
- 3) Why do you think Paul directs "slaves" to obey their masters, or even for wives to submit to their husbands for that matter? Do you think that the Bible advocates slavery or abusive relationships? Support your opinion with scripture if possible.
- 4) Why do you think Paul illustrates appropriate human relationships with Christ's relationship with the church? What parallels do you see?
- 5) Do you think adult children need to honor their parents? Why?
- 6) In what relationships are you currently experiencing conflict? How has the study of Ephesians 5:21-6:9 affected your perspective on how to deal with those disputes?
- 7) Do you think the Bible teaches that we should always submit to others? When do you think a person should not submit?
- 8) What is the most important thing you've discovered in the series on Ephesians so far?

Spend time praying for those who are currently experiencing conflict in their relationships.



Ephesians 5:22-6:9

Getting Specific on Servanthood – Sermon Notes

World’s worst manufacturer/instruction manuals:
Playground sets
BBQs
End table etc



In order that the article has minced could be perfectly cut, Knocked Vigorously on the bud Superior hand Opened. The most or less great number of knocks determines the fineness of cup. The rotation of knives is made automatically and regularly. For the cleaning, to pull the inferior bell and to release the recipient Superior. Well to rinse the machine, if possible to the running water. Re-assembly in Senses inverts. All parts metallic are executed in a mate



We use instruction manuals because we (1) assume that the mfr as creator/designer has the all-inclusive knowledge (2) is the best source for assembling and use.

When we come to a “conflict,” we assume the mfr has knowledge we don’t.



As believers, we have the same assumptions – except it's actually true! The Creator understands, particularly in how we're designed to relate to one another.

Review

1. The church operates on entirely different system (should be palpable)
Servanthood not power
2. True happiness is found not in getting everything we want, but in servanthood

Massive, controversial, statement:

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

Not only is this statement countercultural, but a bit ambiguous for some of us. Can leave us with even more questions. (Forum)

1. Universal servant-hood to one another is foundational (dependent)
2. It is the overlay to specific relationships to follow (Subscript/bullet points)
As such, the following is unpacking of 5:21, specific application
Examination of specific relationships – commentary, less ambiguous
3. Great deal of misunderstanding
Even abuse; irony - some have used passage to obtain power over others

As we examine each relationship/connection we will find a 1) corresponding word, 2) explanation/illustration. Picture Jesus saying it to you directly, like across the table.

We will wrap up with caveats

Submission does not mean we abdicate either our authority or responsibility.

Prayer

1. WIVES

22 Wives, submit to your (own) husbands as to the Lord.

Submit: hupotasso. The same word used in 5:21 for everyone. Some read, "husbands, command your wives." (not)

To your own husband (NASB) Limits this specific submission to *her own husband*. (husband is HER personal possession) Verbal ju-jitsu?

Although countercultural, great deal of misunderstanding.



Subscript

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.

John MacArthur study Bible notes: The Spirit-filled wife recognizes that her husband's role in giving leadership is not only God-ordained, but is a reflection of Christ's own loving, authoritative headship of the church. Just as the Lord delivered His church from the dangers of sin, death, and hell, so the husband provides for, protects, preserves, and loves his wife, leading her to blessing as she submits.

What does submission to Jesus look like?

There is a line of authority in the home, the buck stops here. A good leader can follow.

We follow Christ because we trust him, because he loves us. It is the same for wives. Sometimes, our submission is because of a greater good, (out of reverence for Christ).

Corresponding perspective: Husbands, how does it affect you to know our wives are to follow? What does thoughts does this provoke in you? What if the shoe were on the other foot?

2. HUSBANDS

Notice that husbands have the most-lengthy section. I wonder why?

25 Husbands, **love** your wives,

Love: Agape.

Subscript

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.

Once again, the relationship between the church and Christ is the example. Most teachers illustrate a spiritual truth with a practical one. Paul illustrates a practical truth with a spiritual example.

Paul provides explanation to husbands by making reference to: 1) Our need for purpose and 2) Self preservation. Making our wives beautiful.

A gardener's entire motivation focused on his plant thriving. We have a selfish motive if you will in following through. (brown leaves)

Husbands, have the greatest responsibility.

Our submission is mutual, and the results are reciprocal.

Wives, how does that affect you? Knowing that your husband is to love you? What if the shoe were on the other foot?

3. CHILDREN

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."

1. *Obey*: listen or attend to. Doing what you're told, when you're told, with the right attitude.
2. *Honor*: Place value on

Subscript

3 "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."
(Deuteronomy 4:40)

Protective umbrella of parental authority

Parents, how do you read this? What if the shoe were on the other foot?



4. PARENTS

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

Exasperate: parogizo, provoke to anger. (embarrass?) The harshness of fatherhood of biblical times

Instead indicates juxtaposition.

Bring them up: ektrepho; to nourish or bring to maturity

5. EMPLOYEES

5 Slaves, **obey** your earthly masters

Slaves: doulos, bond slave, by conscious choice. Closest application is employer-employee relationship.

Obey: place under authority

Subscript

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 like slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, 8 because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

Applies to any supervisor

The Bible does not specifically endorse slavery, but does condemn the abuse of others, and clearly establishes the dignity of human beings, regardless of color, gender etc. *God is not a respecter of persons...*

How complicated interaction must have been in the early church

How do you suppose this teaching struck them?

What about over the centuries?

6. SUPERVISORS

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.

Tolstoy and peasants



How revolutionary this could have been

Take advantage? Hold down.

Chapters 1-3 theological in nature – the “why”. Saved by grace through faith 4-6: but there are ways in which we are called to live

5 Therefore, it is necessary to submit to the authorities, not only because of possible punishment but also because of conscience.

1Co 16:16 to submit to such as these and to everyone who joins in the work, and labours at it.

Php 2:3 Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves.

1Ti 2:11 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission.

1Ti 3:4 He must manage his own family well and see that his children obey him with proper respect.

Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

1Pe 2:13* Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority,

1Pe 5:5* Young men, in the same way be submissive to those who are older. All of you, clothe yourselves with humility towards one another, because, “God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.”

2Ch 19:7 Wherefore now let the fear of the LORD be upon you; take heed and do *it*: for *there is* no iniquity with the LORD our God, nor respect of persons, nor taking of gifts.

Ne 5:9 Also I said, It *is* not good that ye do: ought ye not to walk in the fear of our God because of the reproach of the heathen our enemies?

Ne 5:15 But the former governors that *had been* before me were chargeable unto the people, and had taken of them bread and wine, beside forty shekels of silver; yea, even their servants bare rule over the people: but so did not I, because of the fear of God.

Pr 24:21* My son, fear thou the LORD and the king: *and* meddle not with them that are given to change:

2Co 7:1* Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.

1Pe 2:17 Honour all *men*. Love the brotherhood. Fear God. Honour the king.



2Ch 19:7 Now let the fear of the LORD be upon you. Judge carefully, for with the LORD our God there is no injustice or partiality or bribery.”

Ne 5:9 So I continued, “What you are doing is not right. Shouldn’t you walk in the fear of our God to avoid the reproach of our Gentile enemies?”

Ne 5:15 But the earlier governors--those preceding me--placed a heavy burden on the people and took forty shekels of silver from them in addition to food and wine. Their assistants also lorded it over the people. But out of reverence for God I did not act like that.

Pr 24:21* Fear the LORD and the king, my son, and do not join with the rebellious,

2Co 7:1* Since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God.

1Pe 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honour the king.