

Be Subject to One Another

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Introduction:

1. Part 7/8 in our series on the book of Ephesians
2. Overview of Ephesians series...
3. Lesson 6 ended with Ephesians 5:21 "... and be subject to one another in the fear of God"
4. The application of verse 21 is the topic of today's lesson
 - a. General principle = maintain the proper subordination in the various relationships of life
 - b. Specific application of those who are to submit:
 1. Wives (5:22-24) -> Husbands
 2. Children (6:1-3) -> Parents
 3. Slaves (6:5-8) -> Masters
 - c. Commands others to use that authority properly – don't abuse the power
 1. Husbands (5:25-33)
 2. Fathers (6:4)
 3. Masters (6:9)

Discussion:

----Husbands & Wives // Christ & the Church [Eph. 5:22-33] ----

- I. Submission and Headship (**Eph. 5:22-24**)
 - A. Wives: be subject (submit) to own husbands
 1. AS TO THE LORD – as you would to the Lord b/c He commanded it
 - a. **Col. 3:18** – as is fitting in the Lord
 - b. **Titus 2:5** – so the word of God not dishonored
 - B. Husband is head of the wife
 1. There is a divine order – **1 Cor. 11:3**
 2. AS CHRIST ALSO IS THE HEAD OF THE CHURCH
 - a. He has the right to direct/control the church – **Eph. 1:20-23**
 3. HE HIMSELF BEING THE SAVIOR OF THE BODY
 - C. AS THE CHURCH IS SUBJECT TO CHRIST
 1. Christ has all authority – **Mt. 28:28; Eph. 1:22-23; Col. 2:9-10**
 2. So also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything
 - a. In all things not contrary to the word of God (**Ac. 4:19**) obey God over man (even husband)
 1. However, an unbelieving husband may be influenced by her submission and reverence for him – **1 Pt. 3:1**
- II. Love and Purity (Eph. 5:25-28)
 - A. Husbands, love your wives
 1. This authority cannot be without love – **Col. 3:19; 1 Pt. 3:7**

2. JUST AS CHRIST LOVED THE CHURCH AND GAVE HIMSELF FOR IT
 - a. The greatest example of love – **Jn. 15:12-13**
 3. So THAT HE MIGHT SANCTIFY HER.....
 - a. Cleansed her... // b/w a virgin purified/prepared for her husband – **2 Cor. 11:2-4**
 - b. SANCTIFIED BY THE WASHING OF WATER W/ THE WORD – sanctified by truth – **Jn. 17:17**
 - c. THAT HE MIGHT PRESENT IT TO HIMSELF A GLORIOUS CHURCH W/O SPOT...HOLY& BLAMELESS – **Col. 1:21-23; Eph. 1:3-4**
- III. Membership and Unity (Eph. 5:28-33)
- A. Husbands love their own wives
 - B. AS THEIR OWN BODY – the same love and care he has for himself!
 1. HE WHO LOVES HIS OWN WIFE LOVES HIMSELF... NOURISH/CHERISH IT
 2. **Just as Christ also does the church, b/c we are members of His body** – the love of Christ as we are his body!
 3. Leave father/mother, joined to wife = one flesh (:31 c.f. :29)
 - C. **mystery is great, but I'm speaking w/ ref. to Christ and the church**
 1. The similarities between marriage and Christ & the church and the closeness of the relationship with Christ was not obvious
 - D. Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife...
 1. Paul goes back to his original discussion of submission and proper authority b/w wife and husband
- Children and Parents [Eph. 6:1-4] -----
- IV. Children Obey your Parents
- A. Obey your parents in the Lord
 1. Obedience = submission
 2. In the Lord = as the lord commands, and only so far as the commands agree with God
 - B. FOR THIS IS RIGHT
 1. Because God commanded it and it pleases Him – **Col. 3:20**
 - C. Honor your father and mother
 1. It goes beyond just an obedience, requires respect, value
 - D. 1ST COMMANDMENT WITH A PROMISE – **EX. 20:12; DEUT. 5:16**
- V. Fathers, Don't provoke your children
- A. Don't discourage them! – **Col. 3:21**
 - B. But bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord
 1. **Gen. 18:19**; Abraham, command children keep the way
 2. **Deut. 6:6-9**; diligently teach your children
 3. **Prov. 22:6**; train up a child in the way he should go
 4. **2 Tim. 1:5, 3:15**; Timothy's good upbringing

----- Slaves and Masters [Eph. 6:5-9] -----

- VI. Slaves be obedient to your masters
 - A. Obedience = submission and reverence
 - B. With fear and trembling <-> reverence
 - C. IN SINCERITY OF HEART, AS TO CHRIST
 - 1. As if you were serving Christ
 - 2. RENDER SERVICE WITH GOODWILL – **1 Tim. 6:1-2; 1 Pt. 2:18-20**
 - 3. AS TO THE LORD, NOT MEN – **Col. 3:22-24**
 - D. KNOWING THAT WHATEVER GOOD ONE DOES, HE WILL RECEIVE BACK FROM THE LORD – **Matt. 16:27; 2 Cor. 5:10-11**
- VII. Masters do the same to them
 - A. Give up threatening – Don't abuse your power!
 - B. KNOWING THAT BOTH THEIR MASTER AND YOURS IS IN HEAVEN
 - 1. Slave or master, both serve God, our master – **Col. 3:25**
 - 2. NO PARTIALITY WITH HIM
 - a. **Deut. 10:17** – shows no partiality, takes no bribe
 - b. **Ac. 10:34-35** – everyone who obeys is accepted

Conclusion:

- 1. No matter our earthly relationships, we need to understand and practice the proper submission in them. If we are the one with authority, we must wield it responsibly.
- 2. We learn much about the relationship of Christ and the church by looking at the similarities between husband and wife.
- 3. Just as wife is in submission to her husband, the christian is subject to his head, Christ and is to be in submission
- 4. Won't you submit to the Lord today?