

## Ephesians 5:22-6:9

**22-24 Wives**, understand and support your husbands in ways that show your support for Christ. The husband provides leadership to his wife the way Christ does to His Church, not by domineering but by cherishing. So just as God's Church submits to Christ as he exercises such leadership, wives also likewise submit to their husbands.

**25-28 Husbands**, go all out in your love for your wives, exactly as Christ did for the church—a love marked by giving, not getting. Christ's love makes His Church whole. His words evoke her beauty. Everything He does and says is designed to bring the best out of her, dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness. And that is how husbands ought to love their wives. They're really doing themselves a favor—since they're already "one" in marriage.

**29-33** No one abuses his own body, does he? No, he feeds and pampers it. That's how Christ treats us, His Church, since we are part of His body. And this is why a man leaves father and mother and cherishes his wife. No longer two, they become "one flesh."

This is a huge mystery, and I don't pretend to understand it all. What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the Church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband.

**6:1-3 Children**, do what your parents tell you. This is only right. "Honor your father and mother" is the first commandment that has a promise attached to it, namely, "so you will live well and have a long life."

**4 Fathers**, don't exasperate your children by coming down hard on them. Take them by the hand and lead them in the way of the Master.

**5-8 Servants**, respectfully obey your earthly masters but always with an eye to obeying the real master, Christ. Don't just do what you have to do to get by, but work heartily, as Christ's servants doing what God wants you to do.

And work with a smile on your face, always keeping in mind that no matter who happens to be giving the orders, you're really serving God. Good work will get you good pay from the Master, regardless of whether you are slave or free.

**9 Masters**, it's the same with you. No abuse, please, and no threats. You and your servants are both under the same Master in heaven. He makes no distinction between you and them.

## Study Questions

1. What four relationships does Paul discuss in these verses?

1:  
2:  
3:  
4:

2. In the relationship of husband and wife, Paul instructs wives to *submit*. What does that word mean? (see 1 Cor. 11:3) Is this right for today?

3. How is the husband/wife link like the connection of Christ and His believers, His Church?

4. What regulations does Paul provide regarding the parent/child relationship? What happened to children who disobeyed their parents under the old law? (Ex. 21:15; Prov. 30:17)

5. Who *specifically* is enjoined to "bring up the children in the nurtured training in the Lord?" (see Prov. 1:8; 4:1)

6. What is meant by the statement "not with eyeservice" in verse 6:6?

7. Develop a question about this section that you can ask of the other class members to strengthen their knowledge.

