

EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

WEEK TEN EPH. 5:21-6:4

Monday: Mutual Submission

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Ephesians 5:21

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

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Submit** (Greek: *hypotassō*): to be subject, to yield to one's admonition or advice
 - Paul is teaching a principle we call mutual submission.
 - Submission is not one-sided nor can it be demanded.
 - We submit freely for the sake of the other person.
 - Submission to others is taught throughout the New Testament.
 - See Romans 13:1; Colossians 3:18; Titus 2:5,9; 3:1; 1 Peter 2:13,18; 3:1; 5:5
- **One Another** (Greek: *allēlōn*): reciprocally, mutually
 - The context here is the Christian household.
 - Therefore, the "one another" refers to immediate family relationships.
 - How we treat each other is evidence of our faith (John 13:35).
- **Out of Reverence for Christ** (Greek: *phobos Christos*): out of fear for Christ
 - We don't submit to each other only for the other person's sake. We submit to each other out of reverence or fear of Christ.
 - We are called to submit to others in the same way we submit to Christ.
 - We follow Christ's example of how He was in submission to God the Father.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Submission is certainly not a popular term in our culture today. We wrongly view submission as overbearing, controlling, and even abusive. But that's not what Paul is teaching. Mutual submission is at the core of following Christ. We are called to lay down our own selfish desires for the sake of those we love. In doing this we fulfill Christ's command to "Love each other as I have loved you" (John 15:12).

What do you think of when you think about submission?

In what ways can you be better at submitting to those you love?

In what ways did Christ submit to God the Father on our behalf?

PRAY: Ask God to help you understand and apply this passage.

EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

WEEK TEN EPH. 5:21-6:4

Tuesday: A Word to the Wives

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Ephesians 5:22-24

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**.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Submit Yourselves** (Greek: *idios*): subject yourselves, an invitation to lead
 - Submission is freely given as an invitation to the other person.
 - For the wife, it is an invitation for the husband to be the leader.
- **As You Do To the Lord** (Greek: *hōs kyrios*): in the same way as to the Lord
 - Wives are called to invite their husbands to be the leader of the home.
 - This is why it is very important to marry a godly man.
 - What if your husband is not a godly man? See 1 Peter 3:1.
 - As you submit to Christ, He will lead you in how to submit to each other.
- **Head of the Wife** (Greek: *kephalē gynē*): position of leadership and responsibility
 - This does not mean that wives are not to think for themselves.
 - This is a metaphor emphasizing the need for male leadership in the home.
- **Head of the Church** (Greek: *kephalē ekklēsia*): the source of life for all believers
 - Christ is the leader, authority, and shepherd of the global church.
 - Believers are called to each other as we submit to Christ.
- **In Everything** (Greek: *en pas*): collectively, in whole, in every way
 - This does not mean that wives should submit to sinful or ungodly behavior.
 - "In everything" means that we don't get to pick and choose what areas we want or don't want to submit. Submission should permeate the relationship and not be limited to our preferences or personality.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

If you are a married woman you may be uncomfortable with what this passage is teaching. But when you read what Paul says to husbands you will find that they have a huge responsibility in leading the home. If husbands lead well, submission to that kind of leadership becomes an easier task.

Wives, in what areas do you struggle to let your husband lead?

What changes could you make that would help your husband to lead more?

PRAY: Ask God to help you understand and apply this passage.

EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

WEEK TEN EPH. 5:21-6:4

Wednesday: Selfless Husbands

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Ephesians 5:25-30

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.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Love Your Wives** (Greek: *agapaō gynē*): to dearly love, well pleased, content with
- **Loved the Church** (Greek: *agapaō ekklēsia*): same as above but for the church
- **Gave Himself Up** (Greek: *paradidōmi heautou*): sacrificial surrender
- **Make Her Holy** (Greek: *hagiazō*): to be separate from profane things, delicate, pure
- **Cleansing** (Greek: *katharizō*): to free from guilt and defilement, to pronounce clean
- **Washing with Water** (Greek: *lutron hydōr*): bathed in the word of God (Titus 3:5)
- **Holy** (Greek: *hagios*): most holy thing, a saint
- **Blameless** (Greek: *amōmos*): without blemish, morally faultless
- **As Their Own Bodies** (Greek: *hōs heautou sōma*): to give the same care

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

Christ loved us enough to give His life for us, make us right with God, and empower us to grow spiritually. Paul is commanding husbands here to do the same for their wives. Husbands are called to give themselves up for their wives, to lead and disciple the family, and to present their household as holy and blameless to God.

Husbands, what are some things you prioritize over your wife?

What are some ways you can begin to take more responsibility to lead your home?

Are there any areas that you feel you are not allowed to lead in your home?

PRAY: Ask God to help you understand and apply this passage.

EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

WEEK TEN EPH. 5:21-6:4

Thursday: One Flesh

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Ephesians 5:31-33

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.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **For This Reason** (Greek: *anti houtos*): because of what Christ has done
- **Leave** (Greek: *kataleipō*): depart from, leave behind, not taking others along
 - In marriage we are called to leave our parent's household and provision.
 - One cannot be fully united in marriage and still dependent on their parents.
- **Be United** (Greek: *proskollaō*): to be joined, glued together, to cleave or stick to
 - This is a bond that is intended to last for life (Matthew 19:5-6).
 - Like glue, there is an initial bonding that holds strong over time.
- **Become One Flesh** (Greek: *eimi heis sarx*): becoming one literally and figuratively
 - Literally, in the consummation (sex) of marriage we are one flesh.
 - Figuratively, we are one unit, one team, one goal, one purpose.
- **Profound Mystery** (Greek: *megas mystērion*): great beyond the human mind
 - Paul is saying that marriage is a visible illustration of the Gospel.
 - When we obey God in our marriage, we reflect His character.
- **Love** (Greek: *agapaō*): in an unconditional sense - content with, well pleased
- **Respect** (Greek: *phobeō*): to hold as honorable, to treat with honor

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

According to this passage, the best way to fulfill our marriage covenant is to practice love and respect daily. The husband is to love his wife sacrificially as Christ loves the church. He is to give himself and his desires for the sake of his wife. The wife is to invite her husband to lead the home and follow his leadership with respect. This leads to a unique and divine unity in the marriage relationship. This is how God designed marriage to work.

In what ways can we show love and respect to our spouse?

What makes you feel loved? Make a list and give it to your spouse.

What makes you feel respected? Make a list and give it to your spouse.

PRAY: Ask God to help you love and respect in a way that reflects His character.

EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

WEEK TEN EPH. 5:21-6:4

Friday: Obedience and Honor

PRAY: Ask God to speak to you from His Word.

READ: Ephesians 6:1-4

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.

UNDERSTAND: *get a deeper understanding of the key words*

- **Obey** (Greek: *hypakouō*): to listen, to submit to commands
- **In the Lord** (Greek: *en kyrios*): by way of the Lord, in view of the Lord
- **Honor** (Greek: *timaō*): to revere, to venerate, to hold in high esteem
- **First Commandment with a Promise**
 - In the 10 Commandments, the fifth commandment is the first with a promise.
 - This shows the importance of obedience in the Christian household.
- **Go Well** (Greek: *gar eu*): be well off, prosper, fare well
- **Enjoy Long Life** (Greek: *makrochronios*): to live long, to live a better life
- **Exasperate** (Greek: *parorgizō*): to provoke to anger, to be overbearing
- **Bring Them Up** (Greek: *ektrephō autos*): to nourish up to maturity, to nurture
- **Training** (Greek: *paideia*): refers to the whole process of raising a child
 - This term is mostly used to describe discipline and correction.
 - Children cannot properly mature without consistent discipline.
- **Instruction** (Greek: *nouthesia*): admonition, exhortation, setting an example
 - This instruction is not limited to merely teaching information.
 - Fathers must not only train but also set the right example for their children.

APPLY: *What is this passage calling me to do?*

In our culture today we see the consequences of the breakdown of the family. Almost all of the negative situations in our culture can be tied back to family issues. Therefore, as believers, we should be wholly committed to leading our families to honor God. Parenting well requires consistent discipline, training, and an unwavering commitment to loving and serving God.

What are some things you allow your children to get away with?

In what ways do you require your children to honor you?

In what ways are you teaching and training your children in God's Word?

PRAY: Ask God to help you be the parent that leads your family to honor Him.

EPHESIANS DAILY DEVOTION

WEEK TEN EPH. 5:21-6:4

Saturday: Prepare for Sunday

REVIEW: Take a few minutes to make a list of what you've learned this week.

PRAY: Ask God to use this time to help you get familiar with Sunday's scripture passage.

READ: Ephesians 6:5-9

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.

THINK: *Go ahead and underline key words and phrases.*

Start thinking about what this passage is saying.

- What stands out to you in this passage?
- What do you think is the main idea?
- What parts are confusing or hard to understand?
- How might this passage help you to follow Jesus better?

PRAY: Ask God to prepare you for tomorrow's worship service.