

Readings

Scripture

^{5:21} ...submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body. ³¹ "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

^{6:1} Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² "Honor your father and mother" (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³ "that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land." ⁴ Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵ Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶ not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷ rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸ knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹ Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

- Ephesians 5:21-6:9 (*English Standard Version*)

Sermon Outline

Submitting to One Another

Ephesians 5:21-6:9

The Theology of Tears

Brad Anderson

Because Christians are family members in the household of God, they are called to arrange themselves under the authorities that God has established within their household... (Ephesians 2:19, 5:21)

What does mutual submission look like within the Christian household?

Husbands and Wives... (Ephesians 5:22-33)

Parents and Children... (Ephesians 6:1-4)

Masters and Bondservants... (Ephesians 6:5-9)

Reflection Questions (taken in part from the Serendipity Study Bible for Groups)

- Why does the word submission have such a negative connotation in our culture? How is it that there exists mutual submission within the Trinity (Father, Son, Holy Spirit) and yet this occurs without diminishing their personhood or their unity?
- How does the relationship between Christ and the church help explain what Paul means by "submission"?
- How is mutual submission in the marriage in Christ the basis for individual submission?
- What is the model for the love of a husband for his wife?
- What is the model for the respect of a wife for her husband?
- How does this pattern of relationship within marriage redeem the effects of Genesis 3 and restore the pattern laid down in Genesis 1-2?
- How does the image of the one flesh union between husbands and wives speak toward the intimacy of soul that exists between Jesus and his bride, the church?
- What does it mean to bring up children in the Lord without exasperating them? (See Ephesians 6:4) Give examples from your own experience.
- How is Christ central to Paul's instructions about slaves (bondservants) and masters? What problems would be avoided if his instructions were heeded?
- What is the sin of partiality? Why does this come at the end of Paul's directives for the church in Ephesus?