

**The Way**  
Fruit of the Church: Ephesians  
**Lesson 39: Paul Writes About Relationships (Marriage, Child/Parent,  
Workplace)**

*\*We are indebted to [Ethnos360](#) for providing the basis of these lessons\**

## Scripture

Ephesians 5:22-6:9

## Review (Where We've Been)

We've been learning that Christians should be *putting off* the works of the old self in favor of *putting on* the works of the new self.

**Ephesians 4:20 (ESV)** ...to put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires...**24** ...and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

“One’s calling and conduct should be in balance.” – Bible Knowledge Com.

## BIG Idea

This week we will be developing what it looks like to humbly submit to others. When we are filled with the Spirit, all of our relationships are conducted in a manner which pleases the Lord.

## Information (What You Need to Know)

***Three relationships that are affected when being filled with the Spirit...***

- **The Marital Relationship**

- ✓ **A wife is to submit to her husband**

**Ephesians 5:22 (ESV)** 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.

At the Fall, women would become **contrary to their husbands** and men would become **domineering over their wives. BOTH are extremes** and this is never what God desired.

**Genesis 3:16 (ESV)** To the woman he said, "...Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you."

## What Marital Submission IS NOT:

- A Position of Dominance

**Genesis 2:18 (ESV)** Then the Lord God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper [*a counterpart*] fit for him."

"Man was incomplete without someone to complement him in fulfilling the task of filling, multiplying, and taking dominion over the earth. This points to Adam's inadequacy, not Eve's insufficiency. Woman was made by God to meet man's deficiency." – John MacArthur

- A Measure of Worth

**1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)** Likewise, husbands, live with your wives in an understanding way [*to know experientially*] ....

- A Sense of Superiority

**1 Peter 3:7 (ESV)** ...showing honor [*respect*] to the woman...

## What Marital Submission IS:

- To willingly placing herself under the authority of her husband

**Ephesians 5:23 (ESV)** 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.

- Husband is the leader of the home (Christ is head of church)
- Husband provides and protects his wife (Christ is Savior of the body)
- Wife submits as an act of service in obedience to the Lord

**Colossians 3:18 (ESV)** ...submit to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

- ✓ **A husband is to love his wife** (not based in performance)

**Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)** Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her...

- Protects her from sin and leads her into a pure life before God

**Ephesians 5:25 (ESV)** 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.

- Puts her needs above his own

**Ephesians 5:28 (ESV)** 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.

## ■ The Parental Relationship

### ✓ Children's responsibility to parents (obey)

**Ephesians 6:1 (ESV)** 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."

### *Two-Pronged Submissiveness Parents Should Expect:*

- Action-Based Obedience - Behavior (it is the right thing to do)
- Attitude-Based Obedience - Honor (it is the respectful thing to do)  
"Obedience fosters self-discipline, which in turn brings stability and longevity in one's life." – Bible Knowledge Commentary

### ✓ Parents' responsibility to child (don't provoke; instruct in the Lord)

**Ephesians 6:4 (ESV)** Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

### *Two-Pronged Submissiveness Child Should Expect:*

- Reasonable Demands from Parent (don't provoke)
  - Make rules for protection rather than control  
"Rules without relationship leads to rebellion." – Josh McDowell
  - Don't punish for past sins
  - Don't say and do things to purposefully make your child angry
- Commitment to spiritual guidance (instruct in God's Ways)

## ■ The Occupational Relationship

### ✓ Submissiveness of employee to employer

**Ephesians 6:5 (ESV)** 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.

- Listen to and respect them
- Work hard even if they aren't around (work as if you're working for God)

### ✓ Submissiveness of employer to employee

**Ephesians 5:9 (ESV)** 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.

- Have a mutual love and respect for employees
- Don't take advantage by threatening