

# Ephesians 5:21–6:9

## Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

*Carefully read through Ephesians 5:21-6:9. In this section Paul is talking about our relationships and how our life in Christ should influence every relationship. There are at least 19 references to Christ in this passage. Read through the passage again circling any words you find that refer to Christ.*

1. Go back and re-read verses 3 through 7 of chapter five. Given the warnings of these verses, what attitudes about sex and marriage do you think Paul might be addressing in this week's passage?
2. What does it mean to submit ourselves to one another out of reverence for Christ (verse 21)? Do the following verses from the Book of Romans provide us any ideas: Romans 12:10,16; 13:8; 14:13; and 15:7? Do you think Jesus Christ provided us any examples from his life?
3. Again, given the words of warning in 5:3-5, why do you think Paul addresses husbands the way he does? (vs. 25)
4. What is meant by the phrase "In this same way..." in verse 28? What is the way that is referenced? What specifically does Paul say is involved in this type of love? (verses 25b-30)
5. What do you see as the parallels in the counsel to husbands and wives?
6. In your own words, write the goal of Christian marriage that is given in verse 31.
7. What specific things about today's culture are at odds with concepts of a wife submitting to her husband and a husband loving his wife as provided here in the Book of Ephesians?
8. If you applied this section to the way you thought about and lived out your marriage, why would the words submit and submission no longer be bad words to be avoided?

9. So often we say that a great marriage starts by finding the right person. In this section, Paul would argue that it is more important to “be the right person” in your marriage. What are you doing to be that “right person” in your marriage . . . with your children . . . and in your family?

10. How do fathers sometimes exasperate their children? What are some ways a father might bring up his child in the “training and instruction of the Lord”

11. What qualities do you think would characterize a home where verses 1-4 were really practiced?

*The master-slave relationship clearly parallels the employer-employee relationship in our day. We can learn Christian principles for our modern-day work relationships by studying this ancient cultural hierarchy. As in the relationships between husbands and wives and children and fathers, the principle Paul is emphasizing is that of authority and submission as a manifestation of one who is filled with and controlled by the Holy Spirit. Christian employees need to serve their employers with diligence, integrity and goodwill and Christian employers need to deal with their employees in like manner, without bullying.*

12. What reasons do the following verses give us for obeying our superiors or “masters” in a modern-day work environment?

>Ephesians 6:5-9

>Colossians 3:22-25

>1 Tim 6:1-2

>Titus 2:9-10

>1 Peter 2:18-21