

LESSON 6
LOVING SUBMISSION
EPHESIANS 5:21—6:9



1 When is it easy to submit to authorities gladly and cheerfully?

2 In what situations do you find it difficult to submit to others?



Read Ephesians 5:21—6:9 and the following notes:

☐ 5:21, 22 ☐ 5:22–24 ☐ 5:22–28 ☐ 5:25ff ☐ 5:25–30 ☐ 6:1, 2 ☐ 6:1–4
☐ 6:5 ☐ 6:6–8

3 What guidelines does Paul give for wives and husbands?

4 What guidelines does Paul give for children and parents?

5 What guidelines does Paul give for slaves and masters?

6 What role does mutual submission play in these relationships (5:21)?

7 What kind of submission should Christians display or exercise?



Submission is a difficult subject for some people to discuss. And those who live in a democratic nation can tend to take the subject lightly. But Paul states that in the church all Christians should “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (5:21). In fact, when we have difficulty submitting to others, it may be because we refuse to submit to Christ. But Christian submission is different than a mere compliance with authority. Loving submission cannot be commanded by the one with the power in a relationship. It can only be given to another as a loving response. Let your submission to others in the church, at your job, and in your family be of the highest quality that you can offer each day.

8 How does the Bible’s view of submission in relationships run counter to the world’s view?

9 Why is the topic of submission often ignored or treated lightly in many churches?



10 Views on submission in marriage differ. Some would emphasize the wife's submission to the husband (5:22), and others would emphasize mutual submission (5:21). What is your view on how submission ought to work in marriage?

11 Why is submission so important in parent-child relationships? How does a parent teach a child to submit?

12 When is a person free from submitting to his or her parents? What is the difference between honoring your parents and submitting to them?

13 To what degree should we submit to our supervisors and others at work? Where should we draw the line?

14 Why is submitting to others usually very difficult? Why is it difficult even in the church?

15 How can your submission help bring others to Christ?

16 Identify a relationship in which you need to be more loving as you exercise authority over someone. What can you do to meet this person's needs?



17 Identify a relationship in which you need to be more submissive to someone else. What can you do to submit more completely to that person's authority?

A What do the verses on husband and wife relationships teach us about the relationship between Christ and the church?

B What is the mystery mentioned in 5:31, 32? In what ways does marriage mirror Christ's relationship with the church? How does your marriage illustrate that relationship?

C How does honoring parents lead to the fulfillment of the promise in 6:2, 3? What can you do to more completely honor your parents?

D What should be some of the characteristics of headship in relationships? Where do you tend to fall short in the way that you handle authority?

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