

Ephesians - Mutual Submission  
October 13, 2024

As you join this discussion, let the Holy Spirit guide you. Share your thoughts and reflect on the message. Work through the guide by reading Scripture and answering a few questions.

**Starting Question:**

- What do you think mutual submission looks like?

**Read Together:**

**John 13:34**

*...“As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*

**Ephesians 5:21-6:9**

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

***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.*

***25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing<sup>[a]</sup> 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. **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.”<sup>[b]</sup> **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.*

***6** 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.”<sup>[c]</sup>*

*<sup>4</sup> Fathers,<sup>[d]</sup> do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*

*<sup>5</sup> Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.*

*<sup>9</sup> 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.*

### **Discussion Questions:**

- What do we learn about Christ from these passages?
- What are some real ways we can submit to one another?
- What are some responsibilities we have towards one another?
- How do you respond to the statement - 'the hardest place to be Christian is at home'? Is that true for you?
- How does the bond between Christ and the church illustrate the love of a husband for his wife?
- How does this concept of mutual submission contribute to a unified marriage?
- What is the difference between obedience and honor?
- How can you incorporate the "What can I do to help?" question into your life? Where do you need to begin to ask this question?

### **Pray Together:**

How does this message and this discussion lead you to pray? What do you think God is showing you?