

# Ephesians 5:21 - 6:9



## The text – Ephesians 5:21-6:9

1. What is Paul's vision of the Christian life in Eph 5:18–21? How does this shape the way we read the material about wives & husbands, children & parents, slaves and master?
2. In Eph 5:21, how is reverence for Christ important?
3. What specific instructions are given to wives across 5:22–33. The NIV 2011 has translated the opening command as 'submit yourselves'. What does this translation suggest? Is submit the same as respect?
4. What specific instructions are given to husbands across 5:22–33? How many times does the word 'love' appear? What does it mean?
5. Make a list of the ways that husbands are to be pictures of Christ. Are there things that Christ does that husbands do not have to copy?
6. What does it mean that children's obedience is to be 'in the Lord'? Is obedience different from submission?
7. Why does Paul mention the word 'exasperate' in Eph 6:4?
8. Describe the relationship a slave can have with Christ in Eph 6:5–8.
9. Summarise the instruction to masters in Eph 6:9.

## The Scriptures – Ephesians 5:21-6:9 as a portion of the Scriptures

10. How does Paul use the Adam and Eve in the text?
11. How does Paul use the Ten Commandments in the text?
12. How is the relationship between Christ and the church like and unlike the relationship between God and Israel? Consider one or two of the following:  
Jeremiah 3; Ezekiel 16; Hosea 1–3; Revelation 21:1–4.
13. At church, we read from various Proverbs. Can you find a Proverb that is illuminating for understanding marriage, family or work?
14. How is the passage from Ephesians similar to Colossians 3:16–25 and/or 1 Peter 2:18–3:7?

## Our lives – walking the way of Jesus in response to Ephesians 5:21-6:9 as a portion of the Scriptures

15. Are the commandments to various people conditional? Should wives submit to unloving husbands? Should children obey exasperating parents? Should slaves obey threatening masters?
16. As you read the Ephesians passage, do you find yourself thinking about what you should do or what you wish others would do? (For example, do you want to tell your husband to love or your employee to obey?) What might happen if we read the text to find out what others should do?
17. Is there something that the text asks of you that just seems too hard?
18. Tell a story about a marriage that helped you understand Christ and the church.
19. Describe what needs to change in your relationship with your children or parents.
20. What principles from the instructions to slaves and masters could make a difference in your workplace?