

## I. Wives - Eph. 5:22-24

1. Wives are to submit to their own husbands (**verses 22-23**)
    - at verse 21 all are told to submit
    - it is voluntary
    - Rea -meaning the wives must submit, the husbands cannot and should not force it
    - does not mean that husbands are better than wives
    - it is for order and respect
    - submit as you do to the Lord. At Col. 3:18 it says as is fitting in the Lord.
  2. The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is to the church
    - Rea -a similar comparison as to verse 22
    - Two views:
      - A) The husband was ordained by God for servant leadership in the home
      - B) The husband predates the wife, therefore is in the lead
    - Rea -like an older brother
  3. Again the comparison is made of Christ/ church and husband/ wife (**verse 24**)
    - as in the wife/ husband our submission to Christ is voluntary
- Rea **Ideas and Questions:**
1. From where does the push back come on verse 22 in our culture today?
    - why?
  2. Husbands have been remiss on many, many levels with these verses
  3. Discuss the difference between submission and obedience
  4. Does it make a difference that wives submit to their “own” husband?
  5. Compare this passage on wives submit that in Colossians
  6. If wives do not have to “submit” in these verses do husbands have to “love” in the next verses?
  7. In 1 Peter, there are any number of folk (not just wives) who are called upon to “submit”

## II. Husbands - Eph. 5:25-33

1. In Roman culture the wives had responsibilities but the husbands had none
  - that is not God’s way
2. The manner of love - like Christ loved the church (**verses 25-27**)
  - Rea -the pattern or model of love is Christ
  - to what extent did He love - “gave Himself up for her”
3. To make her “holy” or set apart
  - set apart from Himself, as a wife is set apart for her husband
4. How is she made holy -
  - by washing with water through the word
  - to present her to himself a radiant church
  - to present her without stain or blemish
- Rea 5. The imagery is a man who is holy taking a holy bride
6. Love your wives like your own bodies (**verses 28-30**)
  - Rea -as a husband loves his own self / his own body

7. No one hates his own body
  - he feeds and cares for his own body
  - we care for our wives like Christ cares for us
  - as husbands and wives are members of one another so we are members of Christ
8. This is why a man will leave mom and dad and cleave to wife - and the two become one flesh (**verses 31-33**)
  - bonded or glued to one another
  - “one flesh” refers to sexual union
  - this is not all that is involved in “one flesh”
9. This union is a profound mystery
10. Verse 33 is a summary verse
  - A. Husbands love their wives like their own body
  - B. Wives are to “respect” their husbands

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. How can a wife submit? - by the power of Holy Spirit  
How can a husband love his wife as Christ loved - by the power of Holy Spirit
2. Do you really think this plan between spouses can work?  
-have you ever seen it work?
3. Paul’s plan is reciprocal - it takes two to work -it takes two to dance
4. Paul’s plan is orderly - do homes need order in 2019 as they did in Paul’s day?
5. Discuss what a wife is to do if she cannot “respect” her husband (33)

### III. Children - Eph. 6:1-3

1. “Obey”
  - not based on the parent’s worthiness but “in the Lord”
- Rea 2. I understand “in the Lord” as meaning -as a service to the Lord
  - also, “obey” is for children, not grown children
  - little children “obey” - older children “honor” their parents
3. Honor father and mother
  - A. A command
  - B. With a promise - to live long on the earth
4. Live long:
  - A. Tied to the covenant in the promised land
- Rea -if you understand it that way, then that promise has no modern application, so why is it here in the New Testament?
- Rea B. “Live long” means that a culture or nation that honors its parents lives long/ it lasts
- C. “Live long” may be a generally true, affected by so many over variables

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Should I (as a grown parent) expect my kids to “obey” me?  
-do I still get to tell them what to do?
2. Can you honor your parents and still see that it’s time for them to go to assisted living?
3. Did Jesus honor His mom? - of course. She followed Him in His ministry. She did not expect Him to stay at home with her.
4. “Taking care of mom” means a lot of different things to a lot of different people - discuss what it means to your class.

#### **IV. Parents - Eph. 6:4**

1. Don't exasperate your children

-can exasperate by inconsistency in discipline

-can be done by no discipline

Rea -can be done by never being happy with/ or satisfied with your child's work -  
nothing is ever good enough so the kids become frustrated or even depressed

2. Fathers - are counseled about this because it is the leaning of fathers to be this way

3. Instead... bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord

Rea -I see this as a positive thing

Rea -discipline has a negative character to it but this has a positive side

Rea **Ideas and Questions:**

1. Instead of just letting things happen - teach them - instruct them

2. Some parenting is done "aquarium" style... you set it up, put fish into it and let it go  
-verse 4 is much more "hands on" in its style of child-rearing

3. To even broach the subject of "raising kids" is a positive Christian value that  
Christianity brings to the table

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