

# DIGGING DEEPER

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

Link to sermon: <https://youtu.be/BLUuDh1iTVo>

Chapter 5 begins with the command, "Therefore, be imitators of God,..." (5:1). This entire chapter is a fleshing out of what it does mean and does not mean to be an imitator of God. Paul understands the battle these believers face daily. It is a battle that comes with trying to live differently than those who do not know Christ. If the battle they face, and the battle we face, could only be fought in their own strength, it would be hopeless. But here, Paul connects them to the power source that will be necessary in waging this battle.

Jesus wants to free us from the power of sin in our lives so we can walk with him in holiness. He believes that the gospel is true and therefore his readers are children of light. They just need to live out their new natures.

We saw last week in v. 18 and following that a Spirit-filled life results in addressing one another with psalms and hymns, singing and making music in your heart to the Lord, always giving thanks for everything, and submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. This week's scripture Paul talks about what submitting means in different relationships.

He describes three sets of relationships, each displaying a certain order in family or society: 1. Husband/wife, 2. Parent/child and Slave/Master. Paul wants the Ephesians to see that their new life in Christ should transform their relationships.

The goal and inspiration of marriage focuses our attention on the relationship between Christ and His church. Marriage is a theme that runs through the entire Bible. In Genesis 1:26-28 and 2:21-24 we see that God made Adam and Eve for each other. They were two individuals, but they were united as one flesh.

The union pictured in marriage is used by God to mirror His relationship to His people. He is saying He is in a special, exclusive and covenantal relationship to us. In the New Testament we see that Jesus Himself is to be the groom of God's people, who are His bride. (church) He promises the celebration of all celebrations when He is united perfectly and permanently to them in the new heavens and new earth. Until then, we wait patiently and longingly as Jesus prepares to present the church to Himself as glorious bride.

We must understand submission in light of this relationship. The church submits to the one who not only created her but also gave His life for her. Therefore, we see the idea of human marriage in mirroring this love story of Christ and the church. The relationship between a husband and wife should be a picture of the gospel.

- How does Paul's teaching about the relationship between Christ and the church shape the way that husbands and wives are to relate?
- How does Christ transform a marriage relationship?
- Do you think our culture has a strong view of marriage?
- How does the biblical teaching on marriage look different than the world we live in?
- How important are strong families to the strength of a nation/churches?

Look at chapter 5 verses 21-24.

Here we see that wives are called to submit to their own husbands.

- If you think about a man who has the same heart for his wife as Christ has for the church, do you think that this man's wife would have a hard time following his leadership?
- Look at verses 25-30. Here we see the responsibility of the husband toward his wife.
- Paul commands husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church.
- How did Jesus love the church?

He gave himself up for her.

- With this in mind, what role does the husband play in the home? Is the marriage about the husband and what he wants, or about the wife and her well-being?
- Husbands are called to serve their wives.
- We are also told that Christ's love led to the sanctification of the church.
- We can see then that the husband's love should lead to a deeper walk with God for his wife.
- How can husbands help their wives grow in grace?
- Verses 28 and 29 tell us that husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.
  - Husbands should treat their wives the way they would want to be treated.
  - They are also called to nourish their wives.
  - As husbands nourish their wives spiritually, they grow and help the husband grow as well.
- Verse 33 gives a summary statement of this whole section.
  - Love your wife as yourself
  - See that you respect your husband.
  - How do these two attitudes lead to a healthy marriage relationship?
  - How do each of these attitudes lead to mutual submission?
- Paul says children are to obey their parents in the Lord. What promise comes with this command?
- How does a relationship with Christ transform all relationships in our lives?