

Outline of Ephesians 4-6

II. Living in keeping with God's eternal purpose (4:1-6:24)

A. Walk worthy of your calling (4:1-5:21)

1. Endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit (4:2-16)
2. Put off the old man and put on the new man (4:17-32)
3. Imitate God and walk in wisdom (5:1-21)

B. Submission in the fear of God (5:21-6:9)

- 1. Wives (5:21-33)**
- 2. Husbands (5:21-33)**
3. Children
4. Fathers
5. Servants
6. Masters

C. Be strong in the Lord (6:10-24)

Submission in the Husband/Wife Relationship

- Part of walking worthy of our calling is submission in our relationships
- Husband/wife relationship
 - There is a difference between man and woman, designed by God in the beginning
 - Not a reflection of better or worse or superiority/inferiority
 - A matter of role and function
- Will we respect, honor, believe and practice God's way?
 - The instructions transcend culture and personality
 - The world opposes it in every way possible

Submission in the Husband/Wife Relationship

- Wives
 - “Submit” – from a military term for forming or lining up troops for battle under an officer
 - Under the authority of
 - Not the same word as obey (6:1)
 - Romans 12:10; Philippians 2:3
 - Why?
 - Verse 23
 - “as to the Lord”
 - A command to her. Willingly. Choosing to obey God in this matter

Submission in the Husband/Wife Relationship

- Husband
 - Head of his wife
 - A place of authority
 - Not lording over
 - Sacrificial leadership
 - Willingly lead. Choosing to obey God in this matter.
- Not for us to violate it or say “it doesn’t work for us”
 - To do so is to rebel against God’s design from the beginning
- Husband and wife equal in the Lord – Galatians 3:28
- Wife excels in grace and beauty, tenderness, kindness, etc.
- Husband made to lead; looked up to as counselor and head and ruler

Submission in the Husband/Wife Relationship

- Wives – “as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything”
 - Remember too Acts 5:29
- Husbands – “just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for it....”
 - Love and give self for – sacrificial giving
 - Work for her needs and wants
 - Deny self of rest and ease
 - Protect from harm and danger
 - Attend to her in sickness
 - Defend her in trouble
 - Promote her spiritual well-being
 - Self-denial and service

Submission in the Husband/Wife Relationship

- Husbands – love own wife as own body
 - Genesis 2:23
 - “my better half” – part of me
 - Nourishes & cherishes
 - Nourish – feed, supply needs; plentiful supply; spiritually, emotionally, psychologically
 - Cherish – treasured; foster with tender care; warmed by the thought of her
- Permanency of marriage – verse 31
- Love & respect – verse 33

Some Questions for Husbands and Wives

(from Truth Commentaries, Ephesians, by Colly Caldwell, 1994, page 280)

- Are we more concerned about what he/she looks like (after the grey hairs have started or two babies have been carried) than about how he/she feels about himself/herself?
- Are we more concerned about how we feel or how we make the other feel?
- Do we not need to apply the biblical principles of love, kindness, and longsuffering to our marriages?
- Is it possible that the magic ceased because we quit doing and saying and feeling the things we did before marriage which aroused those feelings?
- Are we sensitive to one another's sense of human dignity? Do we break that down in one another by insult, hurt, or unfair treatment?
- Do we think about the other first?
- Do we still look at each other?
- Do we observe one another?
- Are we concerned about understanding each other?
- Do we listen to each other? Do we watch for what we can do to make the other feel appreciated and fulfilled?
- Do we write notes to each other?
- Do we watch out for each others' sensitivities?