

## Christlikeness in Relationships

Ephesians 5:23- 6:9

*Marriage*

*Family*

*Work*

The Spirit-filled life is not to be lived in a vacuum. It is to be lived out among the people of God, within the family and in the workplace

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.

*Marriage*

Genesis 1:26-28

<sup>26</sup> Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And **let them** have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.”

<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created **them**.

<sup>28</sup> And God blessed **them**. And God said **to them**, “Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

Genesis 3:16 To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. **Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you.**”

Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

The filling and control of the Holy Spirit will lead us to a spirit of humility, to the spirit that gives us the desire to seek the welfare of others before our own and to be mutually submissive.

MacArthur, John F., Jr. 1986. [Ephesians](#). MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press.

Philippians 2:3 Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.

Ephesians 5:22 Wives, **submit** to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

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Ephesians 5:21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:17–22 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. <sup>18</sup> And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, <sup>19</sup> addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, <sup>20</sup> giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>21</sup> submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. <sup>22</sup> Wives, to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Submit (hypotassō): bring into subjection

Submission for a Christian is a voluntary yielding in love. It is not an acknowledgment that the person I submit to is superior to me and that I am inferior to him or her.

Hamilton, Ian. 2017. [Ephesians](#). Edited by Joel R. Beeke and Jon D. Payne. The Lectio Continua Expository Commentary on the New Testament. Grand Rapids, MI: Reformation Heritage Books.

Ephesians 5:22–24 Wives, submit to your own husbands, **as to the Lord**.

Ephesians 5:23–24 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in **everything** to their husbands.

1 Peter 3:1–2 Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some do not obey the word, they **may be won** without a word by the conduct of their wives, <sup>2</sup> when they see your respectful and pure conduct.

Loving  
Giving  
Sanctifying

Cleansing  
Presenting

*Love*

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, **love** your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

Love (agapaō): to have love for someone or something, based on sincere appreciation and high regard—‘to love, **to regard with affection, loving concern,** love.

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, **as Christ loved the church** and gave himself up for her,

*Giving*

Ephesians 5:1–2 Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. <sup>2</sup>And walk in love, as Christ loved us and **gave himself** up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

John 15:13 Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.

The greatest expression of love is not that it gives things or even that it gives up things, but that it gives itself.

Boice, James Montgomery. 1988. [\*Ephesians: An Expositional Commentary\*](#). Grand Rapids, MI: Ministry Resources Library.

Philippians 2:7 but **emptied himself**, by taking the form of **a servant**, being born in the likeness of men.

*Sanctifying and cleansing*

Ephesians 5:25–26 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might **sanctify her**, having **cleansed her** by the washing of water with the word,

He might sanctify (hagiazō): to cause one to have the quality of holiness

John 17:17 Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

Ephesians 5:25–26 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by **the washing of water with the word**,

*presenting*

Ephesians 5:25–27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might **present** the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

Present (paristēmi): to cause something to be or to serve as

Ephesians 2:10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 5:25–27 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> so that he might present the church to himself in **splendor**, without **spot or wrinkle** or any such thing, that she might be **holy** and without **blemish**.

Ephesians 1:16–23 I do not cease to give thanks for **(Wife's name)**, remembering **(wife's name)** in my prayers, <sup>17</sup> that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give **(wife's name)** the Spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, <sup>18</sup> having the eyes of **(wife's name)** heart enlightened, that **(wife's name)** may know what is the hope to which he has called **(Wife's name)**, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, <sup>19</sup> and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward **(wife's name)** who believes, according to the working of his great might <sup>20</sup> that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, <sup>21</sup> far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. <sup>22</sup> And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Ephesians 5:28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

John 17:19 And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

Ephesians 5:30–32 because we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup>“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup>This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5:33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

The apostle began with one couplet ‘love’ and ‘submission’. He ends with another ‘love’ and ‘respect’. We have seen that the love he has in mind for the husband sacrifices and serves with a view to enabling his wife to become what God intends her to be. So the ‘submission’ and ‘respect’ he asks of the wife express her response to his love and her desire that he too will become what God intends him to be in his ‘leadership’.

Stott, John R. W. 1979. [\*God's New Society: The Message of Ephesians\*](#). The Bible Speaks Today. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.