



## **Lesson 12: Walking with Others – How Being in Christ Changes Our Relationships**

**Ephesians 5:22-6:9**

But being in Christ, having a new identity and resurrection power within us, and surrounded by a new community of people who love and live for God means that we don't have to be dominated by old, sinful life patterns. God's goal for us is that we live out our new identity in Christ by submitting to those around us, and by living out our faith amongst our friends and coworkers.

### **THE GENERAL COMMAND:WALK IN SUBMISSION (5:22)**

Paul gets uncomfortably when following up his command to submit to one another. As one commentator pointed out, it can be easy to live submissively in a church context a few times a week, but Paul makes explicitly clear that this radical, countercultural way of living should extend throughout all of one's life. Whether at work or home wise, Spirit-filled living that looked like speaking, singing, thanksgiving, and submitting should dominate every minute, not just those when we are with other Christians. To make this clear, Paul shows how such an attitude will change the different dynamics of relationships we are all familiar with.



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## SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF WALKING IN SUBMISSION (5:23-6:9)

- \_\_\_\_\_ (5:22-24) While incredibly unpopular today, God calls on wives to submit to their husband. Those who submit to God by submitting to their husband demonstrate the beauty and glory of the gospel, because they are showing how the church can joyfully and trustingly submit to a leader who has their best interest at heart (if not their husband, at least Christ).
- \_\_\_\_\_ (5:25-33) In both the Old and New Testaments God uses the picture of marriage as a picture of his relationship with his people. Husbands and wives are being called on to do something extraordinary in Ephesians: they are being called upon to reflect and represent the love of God for his people and his people's trusting submission.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:1-3) The word "children" in the Greek meant "descendant" more than small youth. When, then, can a "child" stop obeying their parents (while always honoring them). The best answer from Scripture is the "leave and cleave" principle (Genesis 2:24). While singles may not cleave, when they leave the home is probably the clearest cut off point when they gain true independence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:4) Parents are to be the primary disciplers of their children. It is up to parents to make sure that their children grow to know, love, and serve God.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:5-8) God desires that slaves are to joyfully serve their master as they would serve him.
- \_\_\_\_\_ (6:9) Masters are to treat their slaves well, remembering that they too have a master.

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