

# A Sure Foundation: The Letter To The Ephesians

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## 14 – WALKING AS A BELIEVER – PART 3 (EPHESIANS 5:21-6:9)

### I. An Evidence of Being Spirit-Filled (Ephesians 5:21)

- Paul expresses that the spirit-filled life is reflected in mutual submission to each other.
- He points out how that mutual submission is expressed in three types of relationships.
- Those relationships are husband/wife, parent/child and slave/master.

### II. The Husband/Wife Relationship (Ephesians 5:22-33)

#### A. Wives (Ephesians 5:22-24)

##### 1. The Area of Submission (Ephesians 5:22)

- The earliest documents translate this verse, “Wives to your husbands.”
- The verb “submit” is implied from verse 21.
- The word “submit” does not mean obey.
- It means to “place the other before yourself.”
- Paul is calling wives to place the husbands first.
- Paul states that wives are to do this as to the Lord himself.

##### 2. The Issue of Headship (Ephesians 5:23-24)

- Paul points to the issue of headship in the creative order.
- Husbands are the head of the wives as Jesus Christ is the head of the church.
- The word “head” refers to leadership.
- Paul presents the relationship between the church and Lord as an example to wives.
- Wives are to submit or place their husbands first in every area.

#### B. Husbands (Ephesians 5:25-32)

##### 1. The Area of Submission (Ephesians 5:25)

- Paul is calling husbands to love their wives as Jesus loves the church.

##### 2. Examples of Love (Ephesians 5:25-32)

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- Paul points to Christ's sacrifice for the church as an example of how to love.
- Christ's sacrifice was needed in order to allow the church to become all that needed to be.
- Paul tells husbands to love their wives like they would love and care for their own bodies.
- He states that no one hates his own body, but cares for it as the Lord does for the church.
- Paul tells his readers that we are members of Christ's body.
- Paul quotes Genesis 2:24 to express that the husband and wife are one flesh.
- This oneness is a mystery, but Paul is speaking concerning Christ and the church.

### C. Paul's Summary (Ephesians 5:33)

- Paul provides his readers with a summary of the teaching he just presented.
- He calls husbands to love their wives as they would love and care for themselves.
- He calls wives to make an effort to respect their husbands.
- The phrase "see to it" conveys the call to action or effort.

### III. The Parent/Child Relationship (Ephesians 6:1-4)

#### A. Children (Ephesians 6:1-3)

- Paul calls children to obey their parents in the Lord.
- He stresses that this is the right thing to do.
- He points to Deuteronomy 5:16 and the commandment of God with a promise.
- Children are to honor their parents so that they long meaningful lives.

#### B. Parents (Ephesians 6:4)

- Paul calls parents to not provoke their children to wrath.
- Rather, parents are to bring their children up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

### IV. The Servant/Master Relationship (Ephesians 6:5-9)

- We need to recognize that these instructions were written in the 1st century.
- Slavery was a part of everyday existence in that world with most people being slaves.

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- Our task is not to look at their context with our 21<sup>st</sup> century eyes.
- The scriptures do not condone slavery, but give instruction in how to live in that world.

### A. Servants (Ephesians 6:5-8)

- Paul calls servants to be obedient to their masters with fear and sincerity.
- He stresses that they must do this as they would to Christ.
- They are not to serve this way when they are being watched in order to please men.
- Rather they are to do so as they serve the Lord from the heart.
- They must recognize that they will receive what is right from the Lord whether slave or free.

### B. Masters (Ephesians 6:9)

- Paul calls masters to act in the same manner with their servants as they would Christ.
- Masters are to give up threatening since there is no partiality with the Lord.