

# Christian Students Association Bible Study

March 9, 2021

## The Living Needed in Ethical Relationships – Ephesians 5:22-6:9

### Between Wife and Husband – Ephesians 5:22-33

**5:22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands as to the Lord;

#### (A Type of the Church and Christ)

**23** For a husband is head of the wife as also Christ is Head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the Body.

**24** But as the church is subject to Christ, so also let the wives be subject to their husbands in everything.

**25** Husbands, love your wives even as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her

**26** That He might sanctify her, cleansing her by the washing of the water in the word,

**27** That He might present the church to Himself glorious, not having spot or wrinkle or any such things, but that she would be holy and without blemish.

**28** In the same way the husbands also ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his own wife loves himself.

**29** For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ also the church,

**30** Because we are members of His Body.

**31** For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall be one flesh.

**32** This mystery is great, but I speak with regard to Christ and the church.

**33** Nevertheless you also, each one of you, in the same way love your own wife as yourself; and the wife should fear her husband.

**1 Corinthians 6:17** But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit.

**Note for “joined” in 1 Cor. 6:17** - This refers to the believers’ organic union with the Lord through believing into Him (John 3:15-16). This union is illustrated by that of the branches with the vine (John 15:4-5). It is a matter not only of life but in life (the divine life). Such a union with the resurrected Lord can only be in our spirit.

**Note for “one” in 1 Cor. 6:17** - This indicates the mingling of the Lord as the Spirit with our spirit. Our spirit has been regenerated by the Spirit of God (John 3:6), who is now in us (v. 19) and is one with our spirit (Rom. 8:16). This is the realization of the Lord, who became the life-giving Spirit through resurrection (15:45; 2 Cor. 3:17) and who is now with our spirit (2 Tim. 4:22). This mingled spirit is often referred to in Paul’s Epistles, e.g., in Rom. 8:4-6.

**Note for “nourishes” in verse 5:29** – To nourish is to feed us with the living word of the Lord. To cherish is to nurture us with tender love and foster us with tender care, outwardly softening us through tender warmth that we may have soothing, comfortable rest inwardly. This is the way Christ cares for the church, His Body.

**Note from Eph. 3:9 for “mystery” in verse 5:32** - In eternity God planned a will. This will was hidden in Him; hence, it was a mystery. In His wisdom and prudence He has made this hidden mystery known to us through His revelation in Christ, that is, through Christ’s incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension.

**Note for “Christ” in verse 5:32** - Christ and the church as one spirit (1 Cor. 6:17), typified by a husband and wife as one flesh, are the great mystery.

### **Between Children and Parents – Ephesians 6:1-4**

**6:1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.

**2** “Honor your father and mother,” which is the first commandment with a promise,

**3** “That it may be well with you and that you may live long on the earth.”

**4** And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but nurture them in the discipline and admonition of the Lord.

### **Between Slaves and Masters – Ephesians 6:5-9**

**5** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters according to the flesh with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as to Christ;

**6** Not with eye-service as men-pleasers but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from the soul;

**7** With good will serving as slaves, as serving the Lord and not men;

**8** Knowing that whatever good thing each one does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a slave or a free man.

**9** And masters, do the same things toward them, giving up your threatening, knowing that both their Master and yours is in the heavens, and there is no respect of persons with Him.

**Note for “Children” in verse 6:1** - In exhorting the children and the parents, the apostle dealt with the children first, since trouble comes mostly from the children.

Verses 1-9, which deal with the relationship between children and fathers and between slaves and masters, are inserted between the section on the church as the bride (5:22-33) and the section on the church as the warrior (vv. 10-20). If we neglect the points dealt with in vv. 1-9, we cannot be a proper bride or a proper warrior. In the exhortations in these verses, Paul made one key point, which is a very important lesson for us to learn: for the sake of the church life, we need to have a proper human living in this present age.

**Note for “in the Lord” in verse 6:1** - *In the Lord* indicates that children need to obey their parents (1) by being one with the Lord, (2) not by themselves but by the Lord, and (3) not according to their natural concept but according to the Lord’s word.

**Note for “right” in verse 6:1** - Or, just, reasonable. For children to obey their parents is not only right but also just.

**Note for “Honor” in verse 6:2** - Honoring is different from obeying. Obeying is an action, whereas honoring is an attitude. It is possible for children to obey their parents without honoring them. In order to honor their parents, children need an honoring attitude, an honoring spirit. All children need to learn to obey their parents and, at the same time, honor them.

**Note for “first” in verse 6:2** - This is not only the first commandment with a promise but also the first commandment concerning man’s relationship with man (Exo. 20:12).

**Note for “well” in verse 6:3** - To have it well with ourselves is to be prosperous in material blessings, and to live long is to have longevity. Prosperity and longevity are God’s blessings in this life to those who honor their parents. If we wish to prolong our days and enjoy blessings, we must learn to obey and honor our parents. The commandment to honor our parents is the first commandment with a promise.

**Note for “provoke” in verse 6:4** - Provoking children to anger damages them by stirring up their flesh. Not to provoke his children to anger requires that a father deal with his anger by leaving it on the cross. In this way he is able to render suitable discipline to his children.

**Note for “admonition” in verse 6:4** - Admonition includes instruction. Parents should instruct their children with the Word of God (Deut. 6:6-7), teaching them to know the Bible. However, how the children develop depends on God’s mercy.

**Note for “Slaves” in verse 6:5** - Concerning the relationship between slaves and masters, the apostle exhorted the slaves first, because the source of trouble was mostly with them.

**Note for “be obedient” in verse 6:5** - In the apostle’s time slaves were purchased by their masters, and the masters had the right over their lives. Some slaves and masters became brothers in the church. As brothers in the church, they were equal and without distinction (see Col. 3:11), but at home those who were slaves still were obligated to obey the brothers who were their masters according to flesh.

**Note for “fear” in verse 6:5** - Fear is the inward motive for service, and trembling the outward attitude.

**Note for “singleness” in verse 6:5** - To be single is to be pure in motive, without a mixed purpose.

**Note for “as to Christ” in verse 6:5** - The relationship between slaves and masters also is a type of our relationship with Christ, who is our Master. We should be like slaves, obeying Him in singleness of heart.

**Note for “as slaves of Christ” in verse 6:6** - If a brother who is a slave stands in his position and obeys his master, he is in the eyes of the Lord a slave of Christ, doing the will of God, and he serves as serving the Lord and not men (v. 7).

**Note for “from the soul” in verse 6:6** - From the soul here equals from the heart. This means to serve not only with the physical body but also with the heart.

**Note for “this” in verse 6:8** - Whatever good thing we do, we will receive back the same from the Lord, and it will become a reward to us.

**Note for “giving up” in verse 6:9** - The masters, who had the right over the lives of their purchased slaves, needed to give up their threatening, because the Lord in the heavens was the real Master of both them and the slaves.