

MUTUAL SUBMISSION
EPHESIANS 5:21 – 6:9

LESSON PREP

As you prepare for this week's lesson think about your relationship to others especially those in spiritual authority over you. What can you do more to listen? Also, what can you do more to influence those around you well?

PRE LG TEXT

MESSAGE QUESTIONS

Do you follow or give advice well?

**SCRIPTURE
MEMORIZATION**

Ephesians 5:21

1ON1 FOLLOW UP

Do you find yourself teachable in our one on ones?

Do you trust me to guide you and know that I have your best interest in mind?

DO you see yourself leading others and treating them well with the authority given to you by God?

OVERVIEW

The following video by The Bible Project gives a great overview of the book of Ephesians: <https://youtu.be/Y71r-T98E2Q>

INTRODUCTION

Again in dealing with life with other believers Paul switches his focus to submission. He talks about many relationships (mostly focusing on the relationship between husband and wife), but the key is always mutual submission. This is true of every Christian relationship: no one person is in control of another. We have only one Lord and Savior: Jesus Christ.

Read Ephesians 5: 21 – 33

1. Husbands and wives

- Do you feel like Paul's commands to the different partners in marriage are the same or different? Why?
- What comparison does Paul draw from the husband and wife scenario?
- What does this tell about our relationship with God? – There is no stronger bond between two people than a husband and wife and Paul wants

Read Ephesians 6: 1 – 9

2. Parents/Children and Slaves/Masters

- Background for slavery – "John Stott identified and discussed three major reasons he believed the apostles did not urge the abolition of slavery: First, Christians were an insignificant group in the Roman Empire during the first century, and were politically powerless. Second, it was fairly easy to make the transition from slavery to freedom, and there was a growing tendency for Romans to free their slaves, and even establish them in a trade or profession. Third, by this time, the legal status of slaves was beginning to be eased, and it showed signs of further improvement." "The gospel lit a fuse which at long last led to the explosion that destroyed it [slavery]." – Also Stott
- Do you see a concept of mutual submission here?
- Do these relationships look the same? Just because there is mutual submission doesn't mean that the relationships are exactly the same.

3. What does this mean for us?

- Do you submit to everyone else in your LG – leader or not? Do you allow them to speak into your life and do you take their advice?
- How do you respect someone who submits to your authority (a disciple or someone) without taking advantage or being disrespectful?
- What are some relationships that you struggle to submit in? Parents? Spiritual Authority/Pastors?

APPLICATION

Think through one relationship where you need to grow more in your respect for the other individual. Reach out to them and apologize and discuss steps to change your relationship.

