

WALK IN RELATIONSHIP

Ephesians 5:21-6:9 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

^{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“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”

⁴Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

⁵Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. ⁶Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. ⁷Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

⁹And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. NIV

Parallel passages:

- Colossians 3:18-4:1
- 1 Peter 2:13-3:8
- 1 Peter 5:1-7

We all share a similar calling to humility and reverence before God.

1 Peter 5:5 All of you, clothe yourselves with humility toward one another, because, “God opposes the proud but shows favor to the humble.” NIV

Eph 5:28 In this same way [as Christ,] husbands ought to love their wives

Eph 6:9 And masters, treat your slaves in the same way

1 Pet 3:1 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands

1 Pet 3:7 Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives

1 Pet 5:5 In the same way, you who are younger, submit yourselves



**Human relationships are not about you and them.
They are more accurately about you and God.**

Eph 5:21	out of reverence for Christ	One another
Eph 5:22	as you do to the Lord	Husbands
Eph 5:25	just as Christ loved the church	Husbands
Eph 5:29	just as Christ	Husbands
Eph 6:1	in the Lord, for this is right	Children
Eph 6:4	in the instruction of the Lord	Fathers
Eph 6:5	as you would obey Christ	Slaves
Eph 6:6	as slaves of Christ	Slaves
Eph 6:7	as if you were serving the Lord	Slaves
Eph 6:9	their Master and yours is in heaven [watching you]	Masters
Col 3:18	as is fitting in the Lord	Wives
Col 3:20	for this pleases the Lord	Children
Col 3:22	with ... reverence for the Lord	Slaves
Col 3:23	as working for the Lord	Slaves
Col 3:24	It is the Lord Christ you are serving	Slaves
Col 4:1	you also have a Master in heaven [watching you]	Masters
1 Pet 2:13	for the Lord's sake	All (to authority)
1 Pet 2:13	For it is God's will	All (to authority)
1 Pet 2:13	live as God's slaves	All (to authority)
1 Pet 2:18	in reverent fear of God	Slaves
1 Pet 2:19	commendable [before] God.	Slaves
1 Pet 2:21	called [by God]	Slaves
1 Pet 2:21	Christ...[left]...you an example...[to]...follow	Slaves
1 Pet 3:4	your inner self...is of great worth in God's sight.	Wives
1 Pet 3:7	that nothing will hinder your prayers [before God]	Husbands
1 Pet 5:2	as God wants you to be	Pastors
1 Pet 5:6	under God's mighty hand	Young people

Stop demanding your rights. Pick up your birthright, your orders, your vows of allegiance, and most importantly, your cross.

Matthew 5:39 [Jesus said,] "But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also." NIV

Luke 14:27 [Jesus said,] "And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." NIV



"Nothing has done greater damage to our Christian testimony than our trying to be right and demanding rights of others. We become preoccupied with what is right and what is not right. We ask ourselves, have we been justly or unjustly treated? and we think thus to vindicate our actions. But that is not our standard. The whole question for us is one of cross-bearing.

"You ask me, 'Is it right for someone to strike my cheek?' I reply, 'Of course not!' But the question is, do you only want to be right? As Christians our standard of living can never be 'right or wrong,' but the Cross. The principle of the Cross is our principle of conduct. Praise God that He makes His sun to shine on the evil and the good. With Him it is a question of his grace and not of right and wrong. But that is to be our standard also: 'Forgiving each other, even as God also in Christ forgave you' (Eph. 4:32) 'Right or wrong' is the principle of the Gentiles and tax-gathers. My life is to be governed by the principle of the Cross and of the perfection of the Father..." (Watchman Nee, *SWS*, p. 32)

Matthew 5:41 [Jesus said,] "If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles." NIV

"So, my brethren, don't stand on your right. Don't feel that because you have gone the second mile you have done what is just. The second mile is only typical of the third and the fourth. The principle is that of conformity to Christ." (Watchman Nee, *SWS*, p. 33)

Ephesians 4:24 ...Put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness. NIV

"More and more things will turn up to hurt our Christian sense of righteousness and to test what our reactions are going to be. We need to learn the principle of the cross—that our standard is not now the old, but the new man, 'that after God hath been created in righteousness and holiness of truth' (Eph. 4:24). 'Lord, I've got no rights to defend. Everything I have is through Thy grace, and everything is in Thee!'" (Watchman Nee, *SWS*, p. 42)

Ephesians 5:10 And find out what pleases the Lord. NIV

"Too many Christians have all the doctrine, but live lives that are a contradiction of it. They know all about chapters 1-3 of Ephesians, but they do not put chapters 4-6 into practice. It [is] better to have no doctrine than to be a contradiction. Has God commanded something? Then throw yourself back on God for the means to do what he has commanded. May the Lord teach us that the whole principle of the Christian life is that we go beyond what is right to do that which is well-pleasing to Him." (Watchman Nee, *SWS*, p. 42)



Follow Jesus in your relationships.

Out of reverence for Christ

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

Matthew 3:14-15 But John tried to deter [Jesus], saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?"

¹⁵ Jesus replied, "Let it be so now; it is proper for us to do this to fulfill all righteousness." Then John consented. NIV

As if doing it for Christ

Ephesians 6:7-8 Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, ⁸ because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. NIV

Matthew 25:40 [Jesus said,] "The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' NIV

Matthew 25:45 [Jesus said,] "He will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did not do for one of the least of these, you did not do for me.' NIV

In imitation of Christ

Ephesians 5:25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. NIV

1 Peter 2:21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps. NIV

