

## A Study of Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians

Many times we look at the congregations of the New Testament and we think of them as the cream of the crop, the best of the best, the models of what we are to be. The truth is that these congregations were much more like our congregation that we think. These congregations had blessings and challenges just like we do. The apostle Paul did as much guiding, leading and rebuking as he did motivating and complimenting the people for their faith.

As we look at these congregations we pray that God leads us to see that there is much that we can learn from the guidance and teachings that God gave them through the apostle Paul. We will also pray that our congregation can also grow through that same guidance and teaching.

### Introduction:

Historically, Ephesians chapter 5 is not one of the chapters of the Bible that has caused controversy, like the book of James. It is not one that is hard to understand, not like some chapters of Ezekiel, Daniel, or Revelation. This chapter has been God's Word until..... the late 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century. Then, it is suddenly not God's Word any longer. Ephesians 5 is a beautiful chapter of the Bible that gives guidance to Christian marriages. This guidance is needed especially today, when marriage is hard to come by and harder to keep even for Christians.

As we look at Ephesians 5 we will look at the content in the same way we looked at chapter 4, as God's children, who are seeking to live a life of thanks to the Lord following what he says.

✦ Think back to the beginning of chapter 4. **I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. <sup>2</sup>Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. <sup>3</sup>Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace.**

➤ In view of God's mercy, what should all Christians aspire to?

**Live their whole life in a way that worthy of this great amazing gift they have received from God**

Read 4:20-5:2

**Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ, God forgave you.**

**<sup>1</sup>Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children <sup>2</sup>and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.**

1. Compare the thoughts of verse 20 with verse 1&2. How are they alike?

Kind and compassionate is like humble and gentle,  
Living a life of love is bearing with one another in love  
Forgiving and keeping the unity in the bond of peace

2. How are verse 1 and 2 much like the introduction of chapter 4?

Imitating God is living that life of love – Jesus was and is completely humble and gentle as we should be

3. Why is Paul trying to do for the Ephesians and for us?

Lead us to the understanding that our whole life is a life of thanks to God  
Show us how to live our life to serve God and others

Read 5:3-7.

<sup>3</sup>But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. <sup>4</sup>Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. <sup>5</sup>For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a man is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God. <sup>6</sup>Let no one deceive you with empty words, for because of such things God's wrath comes on those who are disobedient. <sup>7</sup>Therefore do not be partners with them.

4. What is the dual purpose that Paul focuses on sexual sins so often?

1. To show us how dangerous they are

They are so prevalent, we are all tempted by them, and many times we fall into them  
These seem to be a sin that many want

2. To show us that a Christian treats God's gift of sex and marriage differently from others in the world

5. It is not only the sexual sin itself, but other sins that also hint towards immoral living. How do the sins of obscenity, foolish talk and coarse joking also break God's command here?

Anything that breaks or destroys God's good gift of marriage and sex

Even when we speak freely of God's gift or tell a coarse joke it leads us to diminish this good gift

6. This is a good chance to remember that when we sin against any of God's commands, we are not only breaking that individual commandment, but also which other command? How do we do that?

We are also breaking the first because when we sin we are not fearing, loving and trusting God above all things

Read verse 8-14

<sup>8</sup>For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light <sup>9</sup>(for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) <sup>10</sup>and find out what pleases the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. <sup>13</sup>But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said:

“Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

7. What is the difference between light and darkness?

**They are totally different**

**One brings fear the other comfort**

**There's a reason we say as different as day and night**

8. Not only have we been called to light, but we are also.....

**We ARE light ~ We are the reflection of Christ's love to the world**

**Children of light ~ We are reflections**

9. What is the difference between those who live as unbelievers and those who live as children of God?

**The unbelievers run after sin, the believer lives to thank the Lord in God-pleasing living**

**Shameful to speak about what the unbeliever do in the dark, but those who live in the light shine for all to see.**

10. What are some phrases that clearly show this difference?

**fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth**

**what pleases the Lord.**

**everything exposed by the light becomes visible**

**Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness**

**shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret**

Read 5:15-17

<sup>15</sup> Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, <sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. <sup>17</sup> Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. <sup>18</sup> Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

11. What are the contrasting statements in verses 15 -17?

Living Unwisely—

**not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery**

**the days are evil. <sup>17</sup>**

**Therefore do not be foolish**

Living Wisely -

**understand what the Lord's will is**

**<sup>16</sup> making the most of every opportunity,**

**be filled with the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord, <sup>20</sup> always giving thanks to God the Father for everything,**

12. Why do Christians need to be careful how we live? What is it about our life that makes it important?

We are children of God, but sin is always a temptation away. We need to guard ourselves against sin because the devil is looking for any way to get into our life

Verse 21.

<sup>21</sup>Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

13. How does this verse sum up our Christian life?

- What do we do? We submit to one another ~ we are a servant to all
- What is our motivation? We serve others because he served us—out of thankfulness to Christ

Read verses 22-33

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

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

14. What is often the issue with this section of Scripture? The word submit ~it is human nature that we don't want to submit to anyone or anything. It is our badge of courage that we don't bow for anyone.

An extra layer is the war of the sexes that seems to play out all around us every day. There is no giving in man to woman or woman to man

15. Certainly we can do nothing to follow anything that God asks us to do on our own. What is the only way that we are able to follow any of the things that our God says? **Through the power of God the Holy Spirit who works in us to do all good things.**

16. Let's look at the word submit.

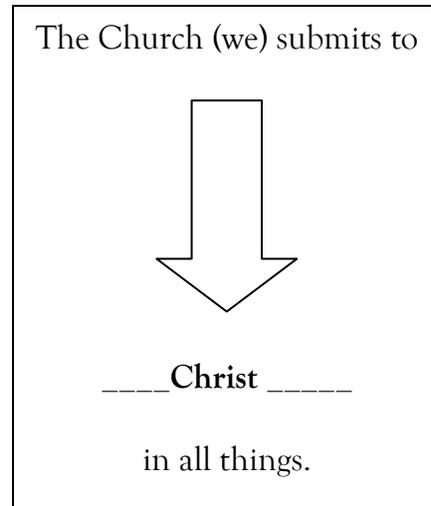
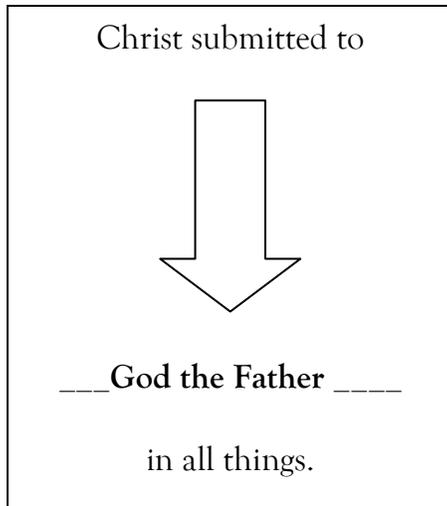
➤ What do we usually think of when we hear the word submit?

A struggle ~ A fight where one person needs to come out on top

Something that is done by the weaker when the stronger wins

Even in fighting throwing in the towel is submitting, in MMA we have a tap out or submission, We even called uncle as children when we were beaten

- But, what if it means something different? What if this submission is something good for us? In the Bible submission has a much different connotation than what we are used to.



What blessings come to us because Christ submitted to his Father?

**We are forgiven**  
**Eternal life**  
**Peace with God**  
**Faith**  
**God's abundant blessings**  
**Christ sends us the Holy Spirit**

What blessings are ours because the Church (we) submit to Christ?

**We have the truth of Scripture**  
**Christ rules over us for our good**  
**The Holy Spirit works through us in all we do**

- Is there any struggle in these relationships?

**There is no struggle between Christ and his Father**

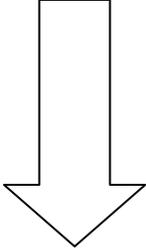
**There is no struggle between Christ and his Church**

- What if there was no struggle in submitting? What if submitting was something we did out of love for our God and for each other? **Submit: A new definition:**

**Yielding in love to someone else**

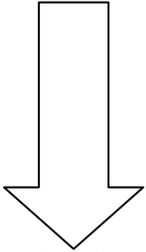
17.

Wives/Ladies submit first of all to:



\_\_\_ **The Lord** \_\_\_

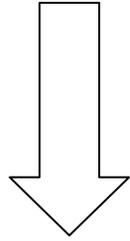
Because you love the Lord  
Wives/Ladies will also submit to:



\_\_\_ **their husbands** \_\_\_

Comparison:

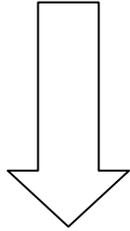
Just as. In the same way:  
The Church submits to:



\_\_\_ **Christ** \_\_\_

So also:

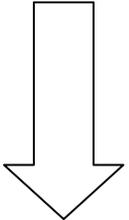
Wives/ Women should submit to:



\_\_\_ **Husband** \_\_\_

18.

Husbands



\_\_\_ **Christ** \_\_\_

Because of this love for Christ, husbands will



their  
\_\_\_ **wives** \_\_\_

Comparison:

Husbands



\_\_\_ **love** \_\_\_

Christ



\_\_\_ **church** \_\_\_

19. What should the husband be willing to do for his wife since Christ was willing to do it for us?  
**Sacrifice himself, even be willing to die for the sake of his wife**

20. Paul quotes Genesis, "the two shall become one flesh." How should the husband treat his wife?  
**As if she is the most important part of him, which she usually is**

21. What makes marriage such a unique and blessed experience?  
**It is blessed by God ~ usually two people in one place doesn't work, but with God it does**

22. What is the difference between a husband loving his wife and a wife showing respect to her husband?

**It is difference aspects of love**

**A woman often needs to feel the love in the way that her husband responds and listens to her, in the special together times.**

**A husband needs to feel respected from his wife in the way that she listens and responds to him, not in nagging and frustration, but in building up.**