

Discovery Group - Community Foundations

(3) *Household of God*

Accountability

Share how your obedience commitment from last week went, and who you shared with.

Bible: Ephesians 5:21 - 6:9

Read *passage* aloud & someone retell in their own words

- What do we learn from this passage about God?
- What do we learn from this passage about people?

Read the *article* on the next page.

- Ladies, what does this teach about how you are to relate to your husbands?
- Men, what does this teach about how you are to relate to your wives?
- Children to parents? Parents to children? What principles can be derived from the teaching about slaves and masters?

Commit

What is Jesus calling you to do in *obedience* this week?

Who can you *share* this with? Who can you reach out to in order to make disciples?

Abide: Read and meditate on the following passages this week:

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

Household of God

The church is the household of God (1 Tim 3:14-15). It is a household - or family - made up of other families: a family of families. A local church can only be as strong as the families that make it up. The scriptures give specific teaching on how families are to function, so that together our families can come together as a mature church. This is a central part of God's plan for filling the earth with His glory by bringing people from every nation to Himself. In order to do this, His glory is to be reflected in our families. We are to reveal who He is in our households. This is more significant even than simply 'having a happy marriage.' This is about God's mission and His glory in the earth.

Submit. This word itself brings up a host of negative responses. And yet, Jesus calls us into a submission that is beautiful and powerful in revealing His glory. Our household passage begins with an exhortation to submit to one another. This is key. This is then further expressed in the verses that follow. Wives specifically are to submit to their husbands "as to the Lord," acknowledging his role as head of the household. Husbands are to submit by loving their wives "as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her." The wife submits by showing respect and acknowledging the husband as head of the family. The husband submits to the wife by putting her needs and welfare above his own, for this is how Jesus loves the church.

Children also are to submit to parents, and fathers specifically are commanded to not exasperate their children. Obedience is among the most important lessons children are to learn at home. Learning to obey parents is a first step in becoming disciples. In the ancient world of the NT, slaves were also part of a typical household. While in this passage God does not seek to overthrow the institution of slavery (yet), He does speak to both masters and slaves about how to conduct themselves in the positions in which they currently are. This can provide good instruction for us as well, as we consider how to glorify Jesus in whatever roles we have been given.