

# Discovery Group - Ephesians

## Submit to One Another

### **A**ccountability

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

### **B**ible: 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.

- Why is it important for us to handle key societal relationships differently than in the world?
- Which area of submission is a struggle to you? How can you reflect Christ more in those relationships?
- How is the marriage relationship unique and important in God's plan for the world?

### **C**ommit

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 all of Ephesians. Focus on 6:10-24

## Submit to One Another

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

We are continuing to fill in details concerning how the Church is to be “the fulness of Christ” in the world so that we can fulfill our calling of revealing the wisdom of God to the powers. Paul began by calling us to manifest the unity we have been given by becoming mature, which happens when each one fulfills the ministry assigned by God. Paul then urges us to live lives that are set apart and distinctly different from the culture around us. Just as unity is a gift of Christ’s grace but we still need to walk in it, so holiness is inherent in our new nature but we need to decide to live according to who we really are. Now, Paul narrows the focus, and shines a light on key relationships.

The big principle is that we are to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. This is radical and counter-cultural in every society. It is subversive to the power structures with which we are so familiar. To those not in places of power (in Paul’s case: wives, children, and slaves), the instruction is clear. Submit, not because you have to, but because in doing so you revere Christ. True submission is from the heart and is a gift freely given. All of us relate to others from a lower position in society. We have bosses, parents, teachers, government leaders, elders, etc. The challenge is to offer our submission freely and joyfully, even when it is not deserved or appreciated, and when we disagree.

Paul also addresses those in power (here, that includes the husband-father-master) in an equally challenging and radical way. They are not to take advantage of their positions, but to use them for the good of those they lead. Husbands are to sacrificially love their wives. Fathers and masters are not to exasperate their children or slaves (workers - any over whom they have authority). They are to remember that in heaven we all share the same Master. Those with power are not to use it in the usual ways. They are to influence through loving service, looking to the good of others above their own, and careful instruction.

The marriage relationship stands out as unique. In it, we are given a revelation of the relationship between Christ and the Church. We pursue mutual submission in marriage in specific ways as husband and wife, and this provides a picture of Jesus and His bride. As in all of these teachings, it is given so that we might reveal Christ.