

## **Ephesians 5:21-6:24 The Christian Walk in the World**

**Key Thought:** Having focused on the inside, heart attitude Paul now changes his focus to how the believer relates to the outside world. He starts in close, and then expands out. First is marriage, then family, then work, and finally the world at large. The key is verse 5:21. The Christian walk is to yield to one another as to the Lord. The mark of godly wisdom, and the opposite of worldly wisdom, is to put God, then others first. Jesus is our example, and how well we follow this principle is a reflection of our relationship with Him.

### **Ephesians 5:21 The Key: A Willingness to Put Others First**

- Submit/Yield is a voluntary act of the will, putting yourself under someone else's authority.
- We submit not on the basis of what the other person can do for us, but rather out of recognition of what Jesus has already done for us (out of reverence for the Lord).
- God does everything in Trinity; in every relationship there are 3 people; You, the other person, and Jesus.

### **Ephesians 5:22-5:33: The Christian Walk in Marriage**

- Wives submit/yield to their husband.
  - An indication of their relationship with Jesus (as to the Lord).
  - This fulfills God's role for woman (a helpmate).
    - What does a helpmate do for her husband?
  - An example of God's set up in the Church.
- Husbands are to love their wife.
  - An indication of their relationship with Jesus (as Christ loved the Church).
  - This fulfills God's role for man (steward, leaving father & mother).
    - What does a steward do for his wife?
  - An example of God's set-up in the Church.
  - This obligation is not based on the other's fulfillment of the commands here (verse 33, However).

### **Ephesians 6:1-4: The Christian Walk in Family**

- Children obey, not submit or yield.
  - An indicator as the child grows of their relationship with Jesus.
  - In keeping with God's plans (there is a promise of blessing).
- The Parent's role is to focus on their children's needs:
  - Do not make your children angry.
  - Training and teaching of the Lord.

### **Ephesians 6:5-9 The Christian Walk in the Workplace**

- Workers obey their boss as they would Jesus.
  - Attitudes and actions both.
  - The reward is from Jesus, not men.
- Bosses remember they are accountable as a worker to Jesus for their actions.
  - Be good to the workers.
  - Don't abuse authority.
- Jesus will be the one to settle all accounts. He will reward the workers and treats everyone the same, including the "bosses".

### **Ephesians 6:10-20: The Christian Walk in the World**

- Remember, we are in a battle with the evil one who controls this world.
  - Our enemy is Satan, his fallen angels, and the system they control. People are not our enemy.
- "Submit" yourself to God for the fight. We can only succeed with His armor, in His power.
- The Armor:
  - Three you received when you believed (past tense)
    - The belt of truth (the truth makes you ready for action).

- The breastplate of righteousness (you go into battle with your heart already protected).
- Standing on the peace of the Gospel (your eternal relationship with God is as a beloved child is secure no matter where He sends you).
- Three You Pick Up:
  - Shield of faith (this is your protection)
  - The Hope of salvation (which protects your mind).
  - The Sword of the Spirit, the Word (which keeps your enemy at bay or sends him running).
    - This is the only offensive weapon.
    - If you don't believe in the Sword, what do you have to fight with?
- The Power of God is unleashed by prayer.
- The orders from God: Stand firm.
- Paul requests prayers so he can likewise stand firm while in prison.

### **Ephesians 6: 21-24: Paul's Final Greetings**

- Paul exhibits the idea of submission to others for their sake, in fulfillment of God's plan.
  - Although in prison, he is concerned how they are doing. Instead of keeping Tychicus around to cheer Paul up, he is sending him to them to cheer them up.
  - He is an ambassador in chains. God has him right where he wants him.
- Paul's wish for all believers:
  - Peace with God.
  - Grace in their lives.