

THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS



10. Godly Relationships (1)

(Member's Notes)

Introduction

One of the most important things in our lives is our relationships. In Ephesians 4 and 5 Paul has been speaking about our walk as believers in Jesus Christ. He speaks about the old life we are to 'put off' and the new life we are to 'put on'. Now, however, he goes on and deals with our relationships.

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 5:21-33

1. Our relationships with one another 5:21

- † In verse 21 it gives us a guideline for all our relationships. What do you think it means to submit to one another? Discuss.
- † Go through all the verses and see how many times it mentions Christ, Lord or God. What does this show us about our relationships?

2. The relationships between husbands and wives 5:22-33

Although not everyone is married, there are some wonderful truths we can all learn from these verses about the relationship between Christ and the Church.

- † What can we learn about the relationship between Christ and the Church that marriage demonstrates? Fill in the chart below.

	Christ and the Church	Husband and wife
V23		
V24		
V25		
V28-30		
V31-32		

- † Why did Christ give his life for us according to v25-27?

The questions below can be done in one group or you could divide into 2 groups.

Questions for the men

- † What is the key word for you to remember in a marriage relationship and why do you think men need to be reminded three times? See v25, 28, 33
- † The worlds' idea of love is different to what the Bible teaches. Look at the following verses and discuss what love really means. See v25, 26-27, 28-29, 31
- † If you are not married yet, what qualities would you look for in your future wife, if you are going to follow Christ's example to love her? Share your thoughts.

Questions for the women

- † What are the key words for you to remember in your marriage relationship and why do you think women need to be reminded three times? V22, 24, 33
- † Many women (and men) have a wrong understanding of what submission is and struggle with this idea. What does submission mean according to v22-24, 1 Corinthians 15:28.
- † If you are not married yet, what qualities would you look for in a future husband if you are going to respect and submit to him? Share your thoughts.

If you divided into two groups for this discussion it would be good to come together and share the answers that were given for the last question.

Conclusion

Whether we are married or not, the Bible tells us all to submit to one another. It is easy for us to want to have our own way or prove we are more important than others. However that is not the attitude we see in the Lord Jesus Christ. Although he knew who he was, he always had an attitude of humility – to his Father in Heaven, and to the people around him. Let's follow his example.