



Life Guide

applying God's Word to life

Picture Perfect August 26th, 2018

(Ephesians 5:21-6:4)

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ 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. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for we are members of his body. ³¹ “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ² “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—³ “that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.” ⁴ Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

1. What would you say are the most unrealistic expectations of pressures that families face today?
2. Why do you think so many people struggle with God’s instructions for wives to submit to their husbands? Look up the following passages: *Galatians 3:28*; *1 Cor. 15:28*; *Luke 2:51*. All three of those passages contain the Greek word translated “submit” in vs. 22. How do those passages help us to understand that “submission” has nothing to do with the overall value or importance of a person?
3. Many people think a woman who submits to her husband, as God instructs here, is weak or dependent. How might you counter that to prove that a Christian woman who follows this role of submission to her husband actually displays great strength in doing so?
4. **Agree/Disagree:** The role that God gives to wives in this section of Scripture is very challenging, and the role that he gives to husbands is really easy in comparison. Defend your answer.
5. Look at all four sets of instructions that God gives to members of the family (husbands, wives, children, parents). What are some ways we see God’s instructions necessitating a “unit concept” (meaning, that if the family members carry out their roles, it makes everything easier for the rest of the family to carry out their God-given roles).