

LG | Leader

[Ephesians 5:21-6:4]

WARM-UP (5 mins)

Let's take a moment to still our minds and go to the Lord in prayer.

- When you reflect on the message from Sunday, what did you learn?

ILLUMINATE (40 mins)

Open your Bibles to the primary text.

1. Based on last week's message, why is it that we ought to submit to one another? Where does our submitting come from?

Any submission mentioned in this text is derived from Paul's explanation in verse 21. We are to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Christ submitted; Therefore, we submit in the areas prescribed in the following verses. The whole Christian life is a life of submission, this is not a word that should be uncomfortable for us, but rather we should consider it an honor to model what our Lord did for us.

2. Read our primary text listed above. Take a moment to notice all the "as Christ/Lord" statements. How many are there? Why is this important?

Five. Everything we do relates to Christ. He is the author and perfecter of everything we are.

3. This may seem simple, but given undercurrents of our culture, what is marriage?

John Stott defines it well by saying, "Marriage is an exclusive heterosexual covenant between one man and one woman, ordained and sealed by God, preceded by the leaving of parents, consummated in sexual union, issuing in a permanent mutually supportive partnership, and normally crowned with the gift of children." (*Involvement*, 163).

4. Does the submission prescribed by Paul in this text strike you as a type of slavery or subservience?

If interpreted properly, it will not. This submission or headship in the marriage relationship is modeled for us in the very earliest days of creation. Marriage was not created simply because Adam was lonely and needed a partner to "rule over." Rather, marriage was created because God thought it would be the perfect display, the perfect "window" in which all the world could witness the beautiful, mysterious union that would come...Christ returning for His Bride, the Church (v. 32).

5. Aside from the obvious physical needs of husbands and wives, at its very essence, what do husbands and wives individually desire more than anything?

Women desire Love. Men desire Respect. – Paul understands this well, see verse 33.

6. Chapter 6, verse 4 gives special emphasis to Fathers and how they are to raise their children, what picture does Paul paint here in this verse?

Paul communicates that parents should be present (“bring them up”) in the lives of their children, not neglecting them but giving them focused attention. Fathers are to provide consistent discipline and teaching...being fair, loving, and consistent in their attitude towards their children.

PRAY (10 mins)

Use this time to pray specifically. Pray for the needs of others; locally and abroad.

Commentary Reference:

- ESV Study Bible Commentary

- Merida, Tony. *Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Ephesians*. B&H Publishing Group; Nashville, Tennessee, 2014.