

## Mutual Submission in Marriage (Ephesians 5:22-28)

Water of Life

Dr. John Niemelä

January 29, 2015

### Review

#### Relationship of 5:21 to 5:22-6:9

Mutual submission (Eph 5:21) is bi-directional (symbiotic ≈ *sun* “together with” + *bios* “life”)

- |                                      |  |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| 1A. Wives respect husband as head    | 1B. Husbands sacrificially loves wife      |
| 2A. Children honor & obey parents    | 2B. Parents train; not exasperate children |
| 3A. Slaves serve from heart as to JC | 3B. Masters forsake threat; consider bema  |

5:24-33

5:22-24 Wives are to be in submission to their husbands as [part of] submitting to the Lord because the husband is head of the wife as [a feature of] Christ being the head of the Church and Savior of the body

5:25-28 Husbands are to love their wives in the same manner as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her to sanctify and cleanse her [now] with a water-type-of-washing that He might present to Himself a glorious church—a holy and unblemished bride; so each husband (as head of his wife under Christ’s headship) ought to love his own wife as he loves himself—indeed, loving one’s wife is a way of loving oneself

#### NEW EXPOSITION: Part 1

**5:29-33: Husbands are to be in submission by sacrificially loving their wives**

**5:29a [The reason husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies is] because no one ever hated his own flesh**

**5:29b [Rather than hating one’s own flesh, each person] nourishes and cherishes his flesh in the same way as Christ [nourishes and cherishes His body] the church**

**5:30 [The reason Christ nourishes and cherishes His body is] because we are members of His body, e.g., His flesh and bones**

**5:31 [For the reason that husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies as Christ loved His body, the church] a husband is to leave his parents and cleave to his wife and become one flesh with his wife**

Genesis 2:21 And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. 22 Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. 23 And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of man.” 24 **Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and [shall] be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

Why does Genesis 2:24 use the future tense?

Why does it mention parents [since neither Adam nor Eve had parents]?

What does one flesh mean?

**5:32 Now, the mystery of a husband and wife becoming one flesh is great, but Paul [also] speaks [of an even greater mystery] Christ's union with the church**

To which words does this mystery refer?

Does it refer to 5:29b-30?

Does it refer to 5:31?

If it refers to 5:31, how do 5:32a and 5:32b go together?

**5:33 [Despite the greater mystery being Christ & the church] each husband is to love his own wife to the degree as [he loves] himself & each wife is to respect her husband**

**Part 2: Children are to be in submission by honoring parents; parents are to be in submission by not provoking them to wrath (6:1-4)**

**6:1 Children are to obey (in the Lord) their parents, because obedience to parents is right**

**6:2 [The proof that it is right for children to obey their parents is that the Law says] "Honor your father and mother," the commandment that is foremost in promise**

Another promise does precede this promise, but that promise applies to all ten commandments. This promise applies only to the fifth commandment

Exodus 20<sup>3</sup> **[1]** You shall have no other gods before Me. <sup>4</sup> **[2]** You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; <sup>5</sup> you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third & fourth generations of those who hate Me, <sup>6</sup> **but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me & keep My commandments.** <sup>7</sup> **[3]** You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes His name in vain. <sup>8</sup> **[4]** Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor & do all your work, <sup>10</sup> but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. In it you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made the heavens & the earth, the sea, & all that is in them, & rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day & hallowed it. <sup>12</sup> **[5]** Honor your father & your mother, **that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.** <sup>13</sup> **[6]** You shall not murder. <sup>14</sup> **[7]** You shall not commit adultery. <sup>15</sup> **[8]** You shall not steal. <sup>16</sup> **[9]** You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. <sup>17</sup> **[10]** You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's

**6:3 [The NT purpose for children obeying their parents is] that they may live long on earth**

Although our English Bibles treat verse 3 as a quote, Paul borrows words from the OT, but does not quote. He intentionally departs from the OT wording:

Exodus 20<sup>12</sup> Honor your father & your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.

The Old Testament promised the nation of Israel

Eph 6<sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother” . . . <sup>3</sup>that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.

The New Testament promises the church

**6:4 Fathers [and mothers] are not to provoke their children to wrath [via unreasonable demands], but are to bring them up in training and admonition that comes from the Lord [through His word]**

**Part 3: Bondservants are to submit to their human masters as part of their bondservice to Christ; masters are to deal graciously with their bondservants as part of their bondservice to Christ (6:5-9)**

**6:5 Bondservants are to submit to their human masters reverently as [part of obeying Christ]**

**6:6-7 [Rather than serving their human masters] merely with men-pleasing eye-service, bondservants ought to serve [their human masters] as part of their bondservice for Christ who diligently do the Lord’s will with goodwill for the Lord, not just for men**

**6:8 [Bondservants ought to serve their human masters as part of their bondservice for Christ] because the Lord will reward whatever good anyone (whether slave or free) does**

**6:9 Masters ought also to deal graciously with their bondservants as part of their bondservice for Christ] by (in part) giving up the threat, because they know that their own heavenly master is impartial**