



Week of February 23, 2020: Ephesians 5:21-33

Discussion Questions Set #1

“Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” (Ephesians 5:21)

“Anyone who wants to be first must be the very last, and the servant of all”. (Mark 9:35)

“In the Lord woman is not independent of man, nor is man independent of woman.” (1 Corinthians 11:11)

1. What emotions (good or bad) does the term “submit” generate in you?
2. Biblically, submission does not mean to slavishly and unequivocally follow – it is a reasoned, weighed and chosen act. How does this understanding impact your interpretation of the word “submit”?
3. In sermon, I suggested that for the people of God, authority and submission to others are the same thing. Discuss this idea.
4. Our passage suggests that our submission to others is done out of reverence for Christ. How does our submission to others reveal a reverence for Christ? How does mutual submission result in Christ being revered?

Discussion Questions Set #2

“Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 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. Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.” (Ephesians 5:22-24)

Our submission to Christ is rooted in the fact that “Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”. (Ephesians 5:2)

1. Why do you think the submission of wives to their husbands is such an emotionally charged idea in the church today?
2. Why is it significant for us to understand that our passage doesn’t suggest that all women ought to submit to all men, as if it is a function of some aspect of their gender?
3. Why is it significant that the opposite/paired term for “submit” in our passage is “love” and not “rule over/dominate”?
4. In sermon, I suggested that a wife’s submission to her husband submission cannot be forced or demanded, but ought to be given as a gift of love. Do you buy this idea? Why or why not?
5. Why might a wife fear submitting to her husband? Is there a time to refuse to submit?

Discussion Questions Set #3

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— for we are members of his body.” (Ephesians 5:25-28)

“We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)

1. In sermon, I suggested a biblical pattern for love and submission exists – God first loved us, demonstrated that love to us in Christ and then we submitted our lives in response to this love. How does this come into play in our discussion of marital love/submission?
2. What do you think it means to love one’s wife “as Christ loved the church”?
3. In sermon, I stated that “*husbands ought to sacrificially love their wives in such a way that they are enabled to be “made holy”, while wives submit in such a way that their husbands rise to become mature and strong in Christ*”. Discuss the dependency of submission on love and vice versa. How does all of this become a “one flesh” task?
4. Can a husband “head” his family while also living in mutual submission to his wife?
5. In sermon, I suggested that the pattern for Christian marriages is not “outwit, outplay, outlast” but simply that both spouses consistently seek to “out love and out-serve” each other. Discuss this idea.