

God's New People.

Ephesians studies **New Relationships.**



Key verse: Ephesians 5:10.

Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power.



Big Idea: Christians are to submit to one another for the Lord's sake and resist the devil's schemes in the Lord's power.

Kick Off

What is your attitude towards the police, the government at local, state and federal levels, your parents, teachers, health inspectors?

Does your attitude change towards people in authority over you depending on your circumstances?

STUDY

Read Ephesians 5:21-6:24.

The first half of this section is all about the Christian relationship in the home and in the work place. Wives, children and slaves each get mentioned first before husbands, parents and masters because the focus of the passage is about our submission to one another.

1. Why are we to submit to one another, 5:21? Is this a good motivation? What other way are there for achieving submission?

2. Wives are to submit to their husbands v22. But rather than cataloguing a list of rules Paul places submission in the context of relationship. How is this both better and harder than a rule list for wives?

3. Paul tells children to '**obey**' their parents, and quotes the first commandment which says, '**honour**' your parents... is there a difference in these two words?

4. Slavery in Australia is unknown as a healthy and normal lifestyle. However in practical terms the worker boss situation many have allows us to apply Paul's words relevantly here. Describe a good worker from vv5-8.

5. Christian submission is not unconditional. Wives submit **as to the Lord**. Children obey **in the Lord**. Slaves obey, respect and fear, just **as they would obey Christ**.

At what point would it be right for a wife to not submit to her husband a child to not obey their parents and a worker to not obey their boss? Give examples.

In talking about submission it's important to stress our dignity, equality and unity. We need to make the clear distinction between a person and their role. We are created as people and established in life in different roles... child, mother, officer, boss, citizen. In Christ as people with different roles and responsibilities we stand united together against the schemes of the devil.

6. Paul talks about us standing together against the devils schemes. In the light of the relational issues we have just studied what schemes do you think the devil tries to hatch against us?

What weapons do we have at our disposal and why are they effective?

What specific scheme of Satan does Paul request prayer for in v19-21.

THINK AND APPLY

Reflect on your family and work relationships. How are you going in this area?

PRAYER

What can you pray about arising from this study?



For next week
Read Ephesians
5:21-6:24.