



All About Relationships

SUNDAY, AUGUST 22, 2021

Key Scripture: Ephesians 5:21–6:9

DISCUSSION GUIDE

In our next to last message in our Setting Things Straight series on the book of Ephesians, we look at what makes for better relationships. Paul gives us three common relationships by which he illustrates the kind of mutual, reciprocal submitting-to-the-other that he has in mind. Each party, if subject to the control of God's Spirit, will submit *to the other*. Within this passage is the radical concept that in every relationship we are to evidence two standards: 1) That we act towards this other person as we would act toward Jesus. 2) That we treat this other person as Christ has treated us. In such submission to the dignity and well-being of the other person we demonstrate the very nature of God whose Spirit indwells and seeks to control us. Love and submission to Jesus means love and submission to others.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Think back to Sunday's message. What do you remember? Review your notes if you have them. If you're with a CV group, talk with them about anything you found memorable or confusing.
2. How would you define the word "submission"? Do you think our culture views submission as a positive or a negative quality?
3. To whom are we called to submit throughout the Bible? (Romans 13:5, 1 Corinthians 16:15-16, 1 Peter 2:13, James 4:7, Ephesians 5:21)
4. Read Ephesians 5:21-6:9. How does verse 21 affect all of the commands that follow?
5. What do we learn about Christ and the church from this passage?
6. Read Philippians 2:5-8. What might happen if Christians stopped demanding their rights and started obeying God's will no matter what?
7. Discuss some real ways we can help each other have the attitude of Christ and submit to one another in our relationships.
8. What's one thing you learned from Sunday's message and today's discussion that will help you become a better disciple of Christ, and help others do the same?

NOW WHAT?

This week, find an extremely intentional way to put another above yourself (submit).

