

Equipped - Fixing My Family - Ephesians
Part 5 - Serving Faithfully
Ephesians 5-6:4

1 Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children 2 and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 5:1-2

Imitate God! *Follow God's example!...*

Love like God! *Walk in the way of love...*

10 This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. 1 John 4:10

3 But among you there must not be even a hint of sexual immorality, or of any kind of impurity, or of greed, because these are improper for God's holy people. Ephesians 5:3

4 Nor should there be obscenity, foolish talk or coarse joking, which are out of place, but rather thanksgiving. 5 For of this you can be sure: No immoral, impure or greedy person—such a person is an idolater—has any inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and of God... 11 Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. 12 It is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. Ephesians 5:4-5; 11-12.

Make wise choices... pursue the Lord's will.

15 Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, 16 making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. 17 Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. Ephesians 5:15-16

13 "Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. 14 But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it. Matthew 7:13-14

18 Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Ephesians 5:18a

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, 19 speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, 20 always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:18b-20

Essential Truths for Serving One Another

1) Submit to one another!

21 Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

submit - hupotasso = “to put under or arrange under.”

Submission is a continual attitude, which becomes a pattern of behavior.

2) Wives, submit to your husband.

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. Ephesians 5:22

22 Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. **23** 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. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. Ephesians 5:22-24

18 The Lord God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” Genesis 2:18.

Submission is not a reflection of inferiority or lesser worth.

42 “Father, if you are willing, take this cup from me; yet not my will, but yours be done.” Luke 22:42

30 By myself I can do nothing; I judge only as I hear, and my judgment is just, for I seek not to please myself but him who sent me. John 5:30

- A wife is to submit to one man (her husband), not to every man.
- A wife is to willingly submit to her husband in personal obedience to the Lord.
- The example of a wife’s submission is that of the church to Christ.
- There is nothing said of the wife’s abilities, talents, or worth.

Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, 1 Peter 3:1

3) Husbands, love your wives!

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love

their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. Ephesians 5:25-28

- Love selflessly.
- Love without reservation.
- Love without condition.

33 *However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband. Ephesians 5:33*

Wives need love and husbands need respect.

4) Children, obey your parents!

Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Ephesians 6:1

2 *“Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—
3 “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”
Ephesians 6:2-3*

A wise son heeds his father’s instruction, Proverbs 13:1

5) Parents, lead your children to the Lord.

4 *Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord. Ephesians 6:4*

6 *Start children off on the way they should go,
and even when they are old they will not turn from it. Proverbs 22:6*

4 *Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. **5** Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. **6** These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. **7** Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. **8** Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. **9** Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.
Deuteronomy 6:4-9*