

We Are God's Family
Jesus and Self-Denying Love
Ephesians 6:1-9

Ephesians 5 Highlights

*"Be imitators of God, as beloved children
and walk in love, just as Christ loved you and gave Himself up
for us..." (5:1-2)*

- 1) Clean up our personal lives: eliminate immorality, impurity and coveting... don't be compromised by others! (5:3-14)
- 2) Know God's will for your life and prioritize it! (5:15-17)
- 3) "Be filled with the Spirit" (5:18-21)
 - *The Spirit will inform your priorities in how you encourage your brethren in Christ. (5:19)*
 - *The Spirit will inform a heart expressing gratitude to God, the Father, for everything because of Jesus. (5:20)*
 - *The Spirit will inform "subjecting ourselves" to every brother and sister in Christ because Jesus is our Lord" (5:21)*

The Principle of "Subjection" Applies to All Relationships

- Eph. 5:22-33 Wives and Husbands in Marriage
Eph. 6:1-4 Children and Parents in a Family
Eph. 6:5-9 Slaves (workers) and Master's (Employers) in Life

"Subjection" is a choice

to consider another Christian as so important

that we will deny ourselves to love and serve them for Christ.

The principle of "subjecting ourselves to our brethren" is taught by Jesus as "denying self" (Mat. 16:24); choosing to place ourselves last to be a servant of all (Mark 9:25); loving the brethren as a proof we are a disciple (John 13:34-35); willingness to die for a brother or sister in Christ (John 15:12-14); and washing feet a brother's feet (John 13:13-15). The ultimate example of "subjection" is Jesus' commitment to dying for us.

See Philipians 2:3-7

Subjection in Marriage: Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs

Subjection in Other Relationships (Eph. 6:1-9)

1. **Children: honor your parents because God promises to honor you for doing it. Eph. 6:1-2**

Self-denial for the sake of serving a parent.

2. **Fathers: let go of the power game and help your children learn to discipline themselves to learn from Jesus. 6:3**

Self-denial for the sake of nurturing a child.

3. **Slaves and Masters: It is not about the world's social structures but about subjection for Jesus Christ. 6:5-9**

TODAY'S Slaves: workers/ servants/ the less empowered.

Principles Referenced:

- Power roles are earthly and of no eternal relevance.
- Yet: We are committed to subjection because of our relationship to God and Jesus Christ (note 5 references)
- Subjection is our commitment to serving Jesus.

Making Subjection a Way of Life

- **The Present Challenge: even Christians have learned to justify rejection of our brethren more than our subjection to loving and serving them.**
- **Our greatest challenge in the present time is valuing and serving every follower of Jesus simply because of how important they are to Jesus Christ.**
- **The witness of Valley Park into the future needs to be informed by unconditional "subjection" to all brethren regardless of differences that divide.**

John 17:17-26