

Submitting To One Another In The Fear Of God

Eph. 5:21

Introduction:

- A. We live in a world of “over” and “under” relationships.
 - 1. Christ is “over” church, church is “under” Christ. (5:23).
 - 2. Elders are “over” congregation, congregations are “under” elders. (1 Thess. 5:12,13)
- B. We are to fulfill our position, whether “over” or “under” in the fear of God.

Discussion:

I. The Wife And The Husband. (5:22-33)

- A. The wife is under the husband.
 - 1. She is to submit to husband. (5:22-23; cf. 1 Pet. 3:1-6).
 - 2. She is to love her husband. (cf. Tit. 2:4,5).
- B. The husband is over the wife.
 - 1. He is to love his wife. (5:25-33).
 - 2. He is to honor his wife. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:7)

II. The Children And The Parents. (6:1-4).

- A. The Children are under the parents.
 - 1. They are to obey their parents. (6:1; cf. Col. 3:20).
 - 2. They are honor their parents. (6:2-3)
 - a. Show them due respect.
 - b. Support them if needed. (cf. Matt. 15:4-6; 1 Tim. 5:4)
- B. The parents are over the children.
 - 1. Parents are to give them proper training (discipline NASV). (cf. Heb. 12:5-11)
 - a. May include “corporal” punishment. (Prov. 13:24; 23:13,14).
 - b. May include other correction or reproof. (Prov. 29:15).
 - 2. Parents are to give them proper admonition (instruction NASV).
 - a. Teach them the Lord's moral values.
 - b. Teach them the Lord's spiritual values.
 - c. Teach sons to work for living. (cf. 2 Thess. 3:10)
 - d. Teach daughters to be good homemakers. (Tit. 2:5)
 - 3. Fathers have primary responsibility, aided and supported by mother.
 - 4. Parents are not to be abusive. (“of the Lord”; cf. Col. 3:21).

III. The Servants And The Masters. (6:5-9)

- A. The servants are under the masters (whether by bond or by hire).
 - 1. Serve sincerely, not with eyeservice. (6:6).
 - 2. Serve with good will. (6:7).
- B. The masters are over the servants.
 - 1. Without being abusive. (6:9).
 - 2. With just and fair pay. (Col. 4:1).

IV. The Shepherds And The Flock. (1 Pet. 5:1-4).

- A. The Flock is under the Shepherd.
 - 1. The younger is to submit to elders. (1 Pet. 5:5)
 - 2. Church ruled are led by elders. (1 Tim. 3:5; 5:17).
- B. The Shepherds are over the flock.
 - 1. Without being lords. (1 Pet. 5:3).
 - 2. With tender care of shepherd—“take care of” (1 Tim. 3:5).

Conclusion:

- A. Those in “under” positions to remember not just submitting to man but to God.
- B. Those in “over” positions remember they have One over them—the Lord.