

Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

Spirit Loving, Mutual Reverent Relationships

1. Wives _____.

2. Husbands _____.

3. Surrender the _____.

4. The theme is to _____.

“In Ephesians 5, Paul shows us that even on earth Jesus did not use his power to oppress us but sacrificed everything to bring us into union with him. And this takes us beyond the philosophical to the personal and the practical. If God had the gospel of Jesus's salvation in mind when he established marriage, then marriage only 'works' to the degree that approximates the pattern of God's self-giving love in Christ.”

– Timothy Keller, **The Meaning of Marriage: Facing the Complexities of Commitment with the Wisdom of God**

Small Group Questions

1. Paul describes our relationships to be a picture of Jesus' relationship with us. He first establishes the power to do this kind of relationship through the filling of the Spirit. (5:18-20) He says to drink the Spirit of God in huge measure!

In the context of your relationships, what role does Jesus play as a model? How often does your mind refer to him as you relate to your husband, co-worker or child?

What role does the Spirit play as your power source?

2. As you look at the husband/wife roles Paul establishes in marriage, define and discuss some of the specific qualities Paul gives to the husband and to the wife.

And now describe the role of parent/child.

3. Is there a situation or relationship in which the power of God needs to be your source of strength in order to take the posture of Jesus? A situation that you can't love and serve apart from the power of God. Pair up with a partner if your group is large, or share briefly with the group and pray for the Spirit to give you power and strength.

Reading at Home

1. Colossians 3:18-4:1
2. Romans 13:1-10
3. Ephesians 5:18-20
4. Ephesians 5:22-24
5. Ephesians 6:1-9