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| Mature Christians at home and at workplace  Ephesians 5:21-6:9  Key Verse: 5:21 "21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." |  |

1. What general principle does Paul give in regards to life in the Christian household? (21) How can we submit to one another? How should husbands relate to their wives? (25a) How did Christ express his love for the church, and what was his purpose? (25b--27)

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| 21Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. 22Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. 23For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. 24Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything. 25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her 26to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, 27and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. |  |

2. To what degree should a husband love his wife? (28-29) How do people care for their bodies? How does Christ’s example help a husband feed and care for his wife? (30)

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| 28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— 30for we are members of his body. |  |

3. Read verses 31-32. What is God’s original purpose in marriage? (31; Gen 2:24) How does this reflect the unity of Christ and the church? (32) Why is it so important to have unity between husband and wife? (1:10; 4:3) How can a husband and wife be united practically?

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| 31“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” 32This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. 33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.  (Gen 2:24)24That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.  (Eph 1:10) 10to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.  (Eph 4:3) 3Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace |  |

4. Read verses 1-3. What is children's duty to their parents? (1; Col 3:20) What does “in the Lord” imply? What is the basis of children’s duty to obey parents? (2) What promises are given to obedient children? (3)

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| 1Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. 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.”  (Col 3:20) 20Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord |  |

5. Read verse 4. What instruction does Paul give parents?**2** (4a; Col 3:21) What causes children to be exasperated? What should parents do instead? (4b) How can parents raise their children in the Lord practically? (2 Ti 3:15-17)

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| 4Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.  (Col 3:21) 21Fathers, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.  (2 Ti 3:15-17) 15and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. 16All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, 17so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work. |  |

6. Read verses 5-6. How does Paul describe the quality of obedience Christian slaves3 should have toward their masters? What kind of service and attitude does Paul exhort Christian slaves and masters to have for each other? (7-9) In light of this passage as a whole, why is it so important to accept the Lordship of Christ practically in the Christian home and workplace?

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| 5Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. 6Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. 7Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, 8because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free. 9And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him. |  |