
Next Week's Life Group: More Harmony
Next Week's Story: Ephesians 5:25-6:9

Our Church's Definition of a Biblical Disciple of Jesus

A person who is committed to *following, being changed by,* and *on mission* with Jesus (taken from Matthew 4:19).

The Purpose of Life Groups

Life Groups are where we connect with God and with others through relationships - growing in spiritual maturity as biblical disciples of Jesus and inspiring a culture of discipleship as we do life together. Life Groups are loving, safe, and interactive places where people can be authentic and vulnerable as they explore, experience, serve, and grow in relationship with Jesus, the Word, and others. Matthew 28:16-20; Acts 2:42-47; Hebrews 3:12-13, 10:23-25; 1 Thessalonians 5:11.



MADE FOR MORE

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.
Ephesians 5:15

GETTING STARTED

Who was your favorite boss of all time?

STORY BACKGROUND

We will be looking at this section of Ephesians for two weeks. This week's discussion will focus on the role of the bride, saving discussion of the role of the husband for next week.

Ephesians 5:17-6:9 teaches the proper Christian response of submission to one another. As a community of believers, husbands and wives, parents and children, masters and slaves, they all submit to each other in different ways according to their circumstances. For children and slaves, their subordination is described in terms of obedience. For husbands and wives, the Greek term used for submission describes voluntary submission to a proper authority.

Paul states that wives should voluntarily place themselves under the authority of their husbands (verses 18-24). For women this tends to raise questions such as, "What if I can't trust his leading", or "What if I completely disagree with his decisions?" As a preemptive reassurance, Paul uses the illustration of the Church's submission to Christ. This submission rests on an interactive relationship based on Christ's sacrificial love, intimate personal knowledge, and care for our best interests and needs. It is a relationship of deep trust. For this reason, Paul's major emphasis in this passage is not on the submission of wives, but on the duty of those who are in authority.

MORE SUBMISSION



STORY: Ephesians 5:17-6:9 (Read aloud)

MEMORY VERSE: Ephesians 5:15

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.



HEAD LEVEL: These questions help us to examine what the Word tells us.

- According to Ephesians 5:17-24, who is told to submit to whom?
- Who is the model for both men and women when submission and authority are being considered?



HEART LEVEL: These questions help us wrestle with what we believe.

- What do you believe about wifely submission?
- How is submission an act of faith in Jesus Christ?
- Why does submission sometimes feel like a negative thing? List some ways Christians are expected to voluntarily submit?



HANDS LEVEL: These questions help us commit to a next step and live it out in our everyday lives.

- Describe a time you were blessed because you voluntarily submitted to authority.
- Do you struggle with submission to a particular authority figure? How can your group be praying for you?