

Ephesians Bible Study Lesson Eleven

Directions

You will need a study group for this Bible Study on Ephesians. Pick a few people with whom you can get together and go over the lessons. You may need to compare notes with one another to find the answers.

The answers to all the questions will either be in Notes On The Ephesians 2019 Edition by Dr. Thomas Constable (<https://planobiblechapel.org/constable-notes/>)

You will need a journal or notebook or means of writing down what you are learning and how it is impacting your life as a result.

Ephesians 5:15-6:9

5 ¹⁵Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. ¹⁷Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. ¹⁸And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

²²Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ²⁶that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰because we are members of his body. ³¹“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ³²This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ³³However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

6 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother” (this is the first commandment with a promise), ³“that it may go well with you and that you may live long in the land.” ⁴Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger, but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

⁵Bondservants, obey your earthly masters with fear and trembling, with a sincere heart, as you would Christ, ⁶not by the way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but as bondservants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart, ⁷rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man, ⁸knowing that whatever good anyone does, this he will receive back from the Lord, whether he is a bondservant or is free. ⁹Masters, do the same to them, and stop your threatening, knowing that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and that there is no partiality with him.

Ephesians Bible Study (Ephesians 5:15-6:9)

1. There are three primary reciprocal relationships in this passage. What are they?

2. In verses 15-18 what are the three expressions of a wise lifestyle?

3. In verse 18-21 what are four evidences of being in submission to “filled with” the Spirit of God?

4. What is the concept of mutual submission?

5. How does the wife express her submission to “being filled with” the Spirit of God in verses 22-24?

6. Does this passage teach that women are supposed to be submissive to men?

7. What is the meaning of “and gave himself up for her” in verse 25?

8. Read Esther 2:1-13 (not the Lord’s ideal, but culturally relevant), Song of Solomon 4 and Ephesians 5:26-27? How do these images of wedding days impact our understanding of how a husband is supposed to care for his wife in Ephesians 5:28-30?

9. The phrase “*For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it*” in Verse 29 can be interpreted this way ‘no one ever hates his own body; instead, he feeds it and takes care of it’ or ‘and gives to his own body whatever is needed’ or ‘and does for himself whatever is necessary.’¹

How should husbands treat their wives? What kind of behavior are husbands are not to exhibit?

10. How does the husband then express his submission to “being filled with” the Spirit of God in verses 25-31?

¹ Johannes P. Louw and Eugene Albert Nida, *Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament: Based on Semantic Domains* (New York: United Bible Societies, 1996), 461.

11. How do both the wife and husband sacrifice as an expression of being filled with Spirit of God?

12. Now that we have studied verses 22-32, go back and read verses 17-21. Who is the "one another" and how should husbands and wives relate to one another?

13. Read Proverbs 1:8, 6:20 and 23:22. How are children expected to respond to their parents?

14. In Ephesians 6:4 who is given the responsibility of childrearing? Based upon the context of the passage how might they incur the wrath of their children?

15. About 50% of the Roman Empire were slaves. Slavery was not ethnically oriented. Slaves could earn their freedom and were often educated and had status within the household. Understanding these population dynamics what relationship does Ephesians 6:1-9 most closely resemble today, particularly since it is written to believers? How might this passage have been misunderstood and misused in the past?

16. Read Ephesians 5:18-21, 5:22, 5:25, 6:1, and 6:5 under what conditions are these relationships properly fashioned?

17. After this study are there any particular areas which you may need to work on in prayer, ask forgiveness, or prepare to be challenged as it relates to marriage, child-rearing and/or work relationships.
