

Ron Armstrong • March 14 & 15, 2020
Figuring Out Ephesians: Be Kind

Ephes. 5:1 Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children [2] and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us ... [19] Speak to one another with psalms, hymns and spiritual songs. Sing and make music in your heart to the Lord...

[21] Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. [22] Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. [23] For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. [24] Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

[25] Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her... [28] In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. [29] After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- [30] for we are members of his body. [33] However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

[6:1] Children, 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] "that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth."

[4] Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

[5] Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. [7] Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, [8] because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.

[9] And 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.

[23] Peace to the (whole community NRSV), and love with faith from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Paul's LAST-MINUTE advice.

1. The tone and brevity indicate that Paul is hitting complex subjects quickly before he ends.
2. Paul isn't teaching that we are the center, but that relationships RADIATE out from us.
3. Paul's 8 relationships and last-minute advice:
 - a. Us to God. Imitate Jesus.
 - b. Us to others. Sing together and ENCOURAGE each other.
 - c. For wife to husband there are two:
 - I. Respect. (Admiration too.)
 - II. "Submit." However you define this, keep in mind that it's the same word used in verse 21. This admonition is balanced by 5:21 and 5:25.
 - d. Husband to wife. You have to view a blessing to her as a blessing to YOU.
 - e. Children obey your parents. Why? "So that it may go well with you." (But don't forget age-appropriate EXPECTATIONS.)
 - f. Parents to children. Lead and nurture instead of DEMAND and nag.
 - g. The slavery issue is hard for us to see because for us it's racial, but for them it was economic.

B. Peace to you.