

I.D.

“Ephesians – A Journey of Identification”

“I Am Related”

“And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” *Ephesians 5:21*

A. God placed us in relationships to shape us...

Your vertical love is measured by your horizontal love!

“for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?” *1 John 4:20*

“And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” *Vs 5:21*

1. All relationships should be handled with an attitude of submission. Submit: to obey, to yield to one’s admonition or advice; to be under the authority. “**Serve one another humbly in love**” *Galatians 5:13* and “**in humility value other above yourselves**” *Philippians 2:3*
2. All relationships should be handled with a mutual concern for one another.
3. All relationships should be handled with a mutual sensitivity to one another.
4. Remember...why has God placed us in this relationship and what does God want to do in us through this relationship?

“And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.” *Vs 5:21*

B. God will use marriage to shape us...

“So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.” *Vs 5:33*

1. There are two commands given in marriage based on different needs and different weaknesses.
2. Wives are called to submit.

“For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord. For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of his body, the church. As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.” *Vs 5:22-24*

3. Husbands are called to love.

“For husbands, this means love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up his life for her to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God’s word. He did this to present her to himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault. In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself. No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church. And we are members of his body. As the Scriptures say, ‘A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one.’ This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.” *Vs 5: 25-32*

Headship is not the right to command and control. It’s a responsibility to love like Christ. In other words what this passage of Scripture does is two things: it guards against the abuses of headship by telling husbands to love like Jesus; and it guards against the debasing of submission by telling wives to respond the way the church does to Christ.

- Headship is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.
- Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.

One other common objection to the pattern of leadership and submission is that the term "head" does not carry the meaning of leadership at all. Instead, it means "source," somewhat like we use the word "fountainhead" or the "head of a river" (Bilezikian, pp. 157–162). So, to call a husband the head of his wife wouldn't mean that he is to be a leader, but that he is in some sense her "source" or her "fountainhead." \*

\*John Piper

C. God will use the home to shape us...

“Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.” *Vs 6:1*

1. Children are called to obedience and honor.

“Honor your father and mother.’ This is the first commandment with a promise:” *Vs 6:2*

2. Fathers do not provoke your children to anger by how you treat them. *Vs 4*
3. Fathers are responsible for the training and instruction of their children. *Vs 4*

“Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.” *Vs 6:4*

D. God will use our workplace to shape us...

“Serve them sincerely as you would serve Christ.” *Vs 5b*

Workers:

1. God calls us to obey our authorities with respect and fear. *Vs 6:5*
2. God calls us to seek to please them by our work even when they are not watching. *Vs 6:6*
3. God calls us to work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord and not people. *Vs 6:7*
4. Remember God is our rewarder. *Vs 6:8*

Overseers:

5. Treat your worker in the same way. No threats, no favoritism but only respect! *Vs 6:9*

Your vertical love is measured by your horizontal love!

“for if we don’t love people we can see, how can we love God, whom we cannot see?” *1 John 4:20*

So...your vertical submission is measured by your horizontal submission!