

# Walking in Submission (Ephesians 5)

## June 22, 2025



### **1. Walk in forgiveness - submission through mercy (Ephesians 4:32-5:1).**

- Be kind to people.
- Be tenderhearted to people.
- Be quick to forgive people.
- Be imitators of God in these ways as his children.

### **2. Walk in love - submission through sacrifice (Ephesians 5:2).**

- Love gives up self for the sake of others.
- Love is a fragrant offering.

### **3. Walk in light - submission through thanksgiving (Ephesians 5:3-21).**

- Light is expressed with thanksgiving. Darkness conceals covetousness.
- Light exposes darkness.
- I cannot expose what someone else is hiding; so, the command is to expose what I am hiding.
  - Walking in light gives thanks for all things. Walking in darkness covets all things.
  - Walking in light pursues God's will. Walking in darkness pursues my will.
  - Walking in light addresses others joyfully. Walking in darkness expects others to address me my way.
  - Walking in light submits to others. Walking in darkness expects others to submit to me.

### **4. Marriage is the model for walking in submission (Ephesians 5:22-33).**

- Wives:
  - Respect your husband as the spiritual, emotional, and physical leader of your home.
  - This is God's design for your benefit.
- Husbands:
  - Love your wife.
  - Give of yourself for her, expecting nothing in return.
  - Set her apart in splendor from everyone else.
  - Be a source of healing for her.
  - Prepare her to meet Jesus.
- Christians:
  - Respect Jesus as your spiritual, emotional, and physical leader.
  - This is God's design for your benefit.
  - Jesus loves you and gave himself for you, expecting nothing in return.
  - Jesus has set you apart in splendor from every other part of creation.
  - Jesus is the source of healing for you.

## **Questions:**

### **1. Read Ephesians 5:22-33.**

- Wives, are you treating your husband the same way you treat Jesus? What should that look like? What changes do you need to make in the way you treat him?
- Husbands, ask your wife the following questions:
  - Do you feel set apart from other women? Do you feel that I care for you more than anyone else?
  - Do you feel secure physically? Do I make you feel beautiful?
  - Do you feel secure emotionally? Do I listen to you?
  - Do you feel secure spiritually? Do I lead you closer to Jesus?
  - Do you feel secure in our relationship? Do I build you up or tear you down?
- Husbands, what needs to change?

### **2. Read Ephesians 4:32-5:2.**

- In what ways are we to be imitators of God?
- How are you doing imitating him in those ways?
- What does it mean to walk in love?
- The last phrase of verse 1 says that Jesus “gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God”. Read Genesis 8:20-21. What is the significance of the fragrant offering?

### **3. Read Ephesians 5:3-14.**

- What are the characteristics of someone who walks in darkness? What characteristics describe someone who walks in the light?
- Compare and contrast thankfulness with covetousness. What do each of those produce? What is being produced in your heart?
- Reread verses 11-14. Whose darkness do I have a responsibility to expose? Why is it important to expose the darkness of my own heart? Why is it easier to focus on the darkness of others?

### **4. Read Ephesians 5:15-21.**

- Whose walk am I to observe carefully?
- What is the difference between “drunk with wine” and “filled with the Spirit”?
- Reread verses 20-21. How often and for what things are we to give thanks to God? Who are we called to submit to? How would living out verse 20 impact the way we live out verse 21?