

Ephesians 5:21-33

- 5:21-6:10 applies the new life, the knowledge and the insight that comes from wisdom and the Spirit to the Christian home. (similar to Colossians 3:18-4:1)
 - Wives
 - Husbands
 - Children
 - Masters
 - Slaves
- The light that drives out the darkness and the light that exposes the deeds of darkness is primarily the deeds of light or the application of the power of the Christian life
- As we embrace God’s Reality, God’s Truth, God’s philosophy in our life we will shine the light and produce the fruits of righteousness.
- Do note that the Jews exempted women, slaves and children from reciting the Shema found in Deut. 6:4. In these verses Paul addresses all believers male or female, old or young, free or slave, etc. This is a change from the ancient world of both the Gentiles and the Pagans

Ephesians 5:21 – “submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

	5293 [e]	240 [e]	1722 [e]	5401 [e]	5547 [e]
	Hypotassomenoi	allēlois	en	phobō	Christou
21	ὑποτασσόμενοι	ἀλλήλοις	ἐν	φόβῳ	Χριστοῦ :
	Be submitting yourselves	to one another	in	reverence	of Christ
	V-PPM/P-NMP	RecPro-DMP	Prep	N-DMS	N-GMS

1. It is debated if this verse concludes the previous section and should be connected with 5:20 or if it begins the new section.
2. This verse, 5:21, likely introduces the next section because:
 - a. Without 5:21 verse 5:22 lacks a verb. See interlinear below:
 - b. The ending of 5:20 is a perfect closing formulation: “in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father.” This obviously seems to close the thought.
3. “submit” can be seen as the 5th participle connected to the imperative of “be filled” from 5:18. These five things characterize the spirit filled life which is one that has been born again, learned the truth, renewed the mind and matured:
 - a. Speaking/singing encouraging things to others
 - b. Speaking thanksgiving to God
 - c. Speaking/singing the thoughts of God in your heart
 - d. Viewpoint of thanksgiving for everything through Jesus Christ...victorious attitude
 - e. Submitting to one another (cooperating with the institutions God has established)
4. “to submit” – *hypotasso* – “to arrange under”, “place under” meaning “to place or rank under, to subject, mid. to obey”. It regularly spoke of the submission of someone in an ordered array to another person who was above the first. For example, the submission of soldiers in an army to those of superior rank who were themselves under a higher ranks authority.
 - a. occurs 23x in Paul’s writings

- b. recognizes subordination to those who are considered worthy of respect because of:
 - i. their own qualities or character
 - ii. the position they hold (governors, parents, masters, church leaders, etc.).
- c. “submitting” to God’s created reality and the institutions he has set in place is, of course, a basic principle. The institutions God has established are for order among mankind and for the preservation of human wellbeing. The deconstruction of “respect” and “submission” will lead to individual, family, cultural and national chaos. Our culture in America has been in a steady state of deconstructing the institutions and social order for 4 generations beginning with the deconstruction of the authority of Scripture and the introduction of secular humanism (which included the theory of evolution) beginning in the 1880’s.
- d. Romans 13:1-7 – “Let every person be subject ([hypotassesthō](#)) to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those that exist have been instituted by God. Therefore whoever resists the authorities resists what God has appointed, and those who resist will incur judgment.”
- e. 1 Corinthians 14:32 – prophets are subject to prophets
- f. All things are “subject” to Christ – 1 Cor. 15:27-28; Ep. 1:22; Phil. 3:21, etc.

5. “to one another”

6. “in reverence of Christ”

Ephesians 5:22 – **“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.**

	3588 [e]	1135 [e]		3588 [e]	2398 [e]	435 [e]		5613 [e]	3588 [e]	2962 [e]
	Hai	gynaikes		tois	idiois	andrasin		hōs	tō	Kyriō
22	Αἱ	γυναῖκες	,	τοῖς	ἰδίοις	ἀνδράσιν	,	ὡς	τῷ	Κυρίῳ ;
	-	wives		to the	own	husbands		as	to the	Lord
	Art-VFP	N-VFP		Art-DMP	Adj-DMP	N-DMP		Adv	Art-DMS	N-DMS

1. Notice in the Greek the word “submit” is NOT in the text, nor is any other verb. So, the verb “submit” is assumed from the previous verse.
2. “own” – *idios* – wives are to submit to “their *own* husbands”
 - a. Marriage is a legally binding agreement instituted by God (for all mankind).
 - b. In context this is NOT saying anything about women in society or woman compared to men. The context is a man and a woman in a married relationship.
 - c. This verse is assuming a voluntary submission and not a forced submission. The same will be true of the men who choose to enter a married relationship. The married man is now concerned about his wife’s desires and needs. If a man does not want to be concerned about what a woman wants then the man should not enter into a marriage covenant with a woman –

1 Corinthians 7:32-34 - “I would like you to be free from concern. An unmarried man is concerned about the Lord's affairs--how he can please the Lord. But a married man is concerned about the affairs of this world--how he can please his wife--and his interests are divided. An unmarried woman or virgin is concerned about the Lord's affairs: Her aim is to be devoted to the Lord in both body and spirit. But a married woman is concerned about the affairs of this world--how she can please her husband.”

Ephesians 5:23 – **“For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.**

3754 [e]	435 [e]	1510 [e]	2776 [e]	3588 [e]	1135 [e]	5613 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	
hoti	anēr	estin	kephalē	tēs	gynaikos	hōs	kai	hō	
23	ὅτι	άνήρ	έστιν	κεφαλή	τῆς	γυναικός	, ὡς	καὶ	ὁ
for	[the] husband	is	head	of the	wife	as	also	-	
Conj	N-NMS	V-PIA-3S	N-NFS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	Adv	Conj	Art-NMS	

5547 [e]	2776 [e]	3588 [e]	1577 [e]	846 [e]	4990 [e]	3588 [e]	4983 [e]
Christos	kephalē	tēs	ekklēsias	autos	sōtēr	tou	sōmatos
Χριστὸς	κεφαλή	τῆς	ἐκκλησίας	, αὐτὸς	σωτὴρ	τοῦ	σώματος .
Christ	[is the] head	of the	church	He Himself	Savior	of the	body
N-NMS	N-NFS	Art-GFS	N-GFS	PPro-NM3S	N-NMS	Art-GNS	N-GNS

1. The covenant of marriage and the marriage relationship between a man and a woman is now compared to Jesus and the church...or, Jesus' covenant with the church (New Covenant) and Jesus' relationship with the church which is his body and seated with him.

Ephesians 5:24 – **“Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.**

235 [e]	5613 [e]	3588 [e]	1577 [e]	5293 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	3779 [e]	
alla	hōs	hē	ekklēsia	hypotassetai	tō	Christō	houtōs	
24	ἀλλὰ	ὡς	ἡ	ἐκκλησία	ὑποτάσσεται	τῷ	Χριστῷ	, οὕτως
But	even as	the	church	is subjected	-	to Christ	so	
Conj	Adv	Art-NFS	N-NFS	V-PIM/P-3S	Art-DMS	N-DMS	Adv	

2532 [e]	3588 [e]	1135 [e]	3588 [e]	435 [e]	1722 [e]	3956 [e]
kai	hai	gynaikes	tois	andrasin	en	panti
καὶ	αἱ	γυναῖκες	τοῖς	άνδράσιν	ἐν	παντί .
also	-	wives	to the own	husbands	in	everything
Conj	Art-VFP	N-VFP	Art-DMP	N-DMP	Prep	Adj-DNS

Ephesians 5:25 – **“Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,**

3588 [e]	435 [e]	25 [e]	3588 [e]	1135 [e]	2531 [e]	2532 [e]	3588 [e]	5547 [e]	
Hoi	andres	agapate	tas	gynaikas	kathōs	kai	ho	Christos	
25	Οἱ	ἄνδρες ,	ἀγαπᾶτε	τὰς	γυναῖκας ,	καθὼς	καὶ	ὁ	Χριστὸς
-	Husbands	love	the	wives	just as	also	-	Christ	
Art-VMP	N-VMP	V-PMA-2P	Art-AFP	N-AFP	Adv	Conj	Art-NMS	N-NMS	

25 [e]	3588 [e]	1577 [e]	2532 [e]	1438 [e]	3860 [e]	5228 [e]	846 [e]
ēgapēsen	tēn	ekklēsian	kai	heauton	paredōken	hyper	autēs
ἠγάπησεν	τὴν	ἐκκλησίαν	καὶ	ἑαυτὸν	παρέδωκεν	ὑπὲρ	αὐτῆς ,
loved	the	church	and	Himself	gave up	for	her
V-AIA-3S	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Conj	RefPro-AM3S	V-AIA-3S	Prep	PPro-GF3S

Ephesians 5:26 – “that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,

2443 [e]	846 [e]	37 [e]	2511 [e]	3588 [e]	3067 [e]	3588 [e]	5204 [e]	1722 [e]	4487 [e]	
hina	autēn	hagiasē	katharisas	tō	loutrō	tou	hydatos	en	rhēmati	
26	ἵνα	αὐτὴν	ἀγιάσῃ ,	καθαρίσας	τῷ	λουτρῷ	τοῦ	ὑδάτος	ἐν	ῥήματι ,
so that	her	He might sanctify	having cleansed [her]	by the	washing	-	of water	by	[the] word	
Conj	PPro-AF3S	V-ASA-3S	V-APA-NMS	Art-DNS	N-DNS	Art-GNS	N-GNS	Prep	N-DNS	

Ephesians 5:27 – “so 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.

2443 [e]	3936 [e]	846 [e]	1438 [e]	1741 [e]	3588 [e]	1577 [e]	3361 [e]	2192 [e]	4696 [e]	
hina	parastēsē	autos	heautō	endoxon	tēn	ekklēsian	mē	echousan	spilon	
27	ἵνα	παραστήσῃ	αὐτὸς	ἑαυτῷ	ἔνδοξον	τὴν	ἐκκλησίαν ,	μὴ	ἔχουσαν	σπίλον
so that	might present	He	to Himself	in glory	the	church	not	having	spot	
Conj	V-ASA-3S	PPro-NM3S	RefPro-DM3S	Adj-AFS	Art-AFS	N-AFS	Adv	V-PPA-AFS	N-AMS	

2228 [e]	4512 [e]	2228 [e]	5100 [e]	3588 [e]	5108 [e]	235 [e]	2443 [e]	1510 [e]	40 [e]	2532 [e]	299 [e]
ē	rhytida	ē	ti	tōn	toioutōn	all'	hina	ē	hagia	kai	amōmos
ἢ	ῥυτίδα	ἢ	τι	τῶν	τοιούτων ,	ἀλλ'	ἵνα	ἦ	ἅγια	καὶ	ἄμωμος .
or	wrinkle	or	any	of the	such things	but	that	it would be	holy	and	blameless
Conj	N-AFS	Conj	IPro-ANS	Art-GNP	DPro-GNP	Conj	Conj	V-PSA-3S	Adj-NFS	Conj	Adj-NFS

Ephesians 5:28 – “In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.

Ephesians 5:29 – “For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church,

Ephesians 5:30 – “because we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:31 – **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”**

Ephesians 5:32 – **“This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.**

Ephesians 5:33 – **“However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.**