

Relationships - Making the Ideal Real

Submission – Returning to God’s Original Design

Ephesians 5:6-21

Presented by
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October 12, 2025

Big Idea: Biblical submission is an overarching, shared ethic for all relationships.

Returning to God’s Original Design

“Let no one deceive you...Don’t participate in the fruitless works of darkness...Pay careful attention, then, how you walk...” (vv. 6, 11, 15)

- Pay attention! “What God creates, Satan tries to corrupt.”

“Walk as children of the light – for the fruit of the light consists of all goodness, righteousness, and truth...So don’t be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.” (vv. 8-9, 17)

- God’s design for relationships is not just functional, it fosters flourishing.
 - “Authority” – Not a position of privilege or power, but an assigned responsibility to serve, provide, and protect others ahead of self.
 - “Roles” – An intentional order that reflects the love, unity, and relationship that exists between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
 - “Submission” - “Willingly serving others and being under them rather than dominating others and exalting ourselves.”¹
- Abuses and distortions do not diminish the beauty of God’s original design.

¹ Harold W. Hoehner, [“Ephesians,”](#) in *The Bible Knowledge Commentary: An Exposition of the Scriptures*, ed. J. F. Walvoord and R. B. Zuck, vol. 2 (Wheaton, IL: Victor Books, 1985), 640.

“A don’t get drunk with wine, which leads to reckless living, but be filled by the Spirit...submitting to one another in the fear of Christ.” (vv. 18, 21)

- A submissive attitude is a key distinctive of a Spirit-led believer.
- A submissive attitude starts with submission to Christ.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you believe the term “submission” is offensive or disturbing to most people? Have you personally witnessed or experienced how this concept has been abused or distorted? How did these experiences affect the relationships involved?
2. What benefits can this overarching, shared ethic provide a relationship when lived out within a community? Can you think of an example where you’ve personally witnessed or experienced this? What factors contributed to the successful implementation of this ethic?
3. How does the relationship within the triune Godhead (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) inform how God intends for us to view and interact with one another?
4. Why is our submission to others ultimately tied to our trust and worship of God? What reasons could you give in defense of God’s design and His creditability as Creator?

Today's Worship Songs:

Praise the Lord

You've Already Won

Victory in Jesus

Thank You Jesus for the Blood

From Whom All Blessings Flow

To You Alone

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Relationship series at Menti.com
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