

Husbands, Children, and Parents: Flying through Ephesians
Eph 5:29–6:4 Dr. John Niemelä Grace Chapel November 22, 2006

1:3–14	Gentile believers should praise the Father for what the Trinity did for Jews first in regard to the inheritance
1:15–23	Paul [a Jewish bel] thankfully prays for enlightened EphGBels to know their calling in hope, their rich inheritance, & the Father's powerful working for bels w/ His power that raised & seated Christ
2:1–10	Despite Jews & Gentiles being dead, God made alive, raised, & seated them together w/ Christ (saving separated – from – God - people by grace through faith) so they cannot boast but that His created Church would do the good works He prepared for it.
2:11–13	These now alive & near-to-God Gentiles are to remember their former alienation
2:14–22	Christ made peace between alienated JBels & GBels when he made both one & broke down the dividing Law & reconciled both to God, so Gentiles are no longer aliens, but fellow citizens w/ JBels, (both) having been built into a (God indwelt) holy temple—the Church.
3:1-7,13	Paul [requests that they not lose heart at his imprisonment] on behalf of the GBels, because he assumes that they know of the grace (spiritual gift) given to Paul, namely that God revealed the previously unrevealed mystery to the apostles and NT prophets [e.g., that some Gentiles would be fellow heirs, of the same body, and fellow partakers (with some Jews)]
3:8–13	Paul rec'd a grace (gift) to announce the Church's inheritance & mystery dispensation—the Church—hidden from creation by the Creator— God's great eternal plan accomplished thru Christ. Thus, Paul's imprisonment should not discourage them, because (his message resulted in) imprisonment is their glory
3:14–19	In light of God uniting Jews & Gentiles Paul prays to the Church's Father to strengthen the EphGBels that Christ might indwell their assembly in order that they (who were established in God's love) would know the extent & depth of Christ's love w/ goal that they would manifest God's character in its fullness.
3:20–21	Believers should praise the Father forever who works exceedingly [on behalf of Christ's body] doing for it what we never could have imagined, let alone, asked for.
4:1–6	[In light of God joining Jews and Gentiles in one body] bels ought to live in a way appropriate to the fact that God has called them into His Church by humbly bearing with one another in love, that is, by preserving the unity that the HS effected thru a jointly-bound peace [treaty, the peace-treaty that created the Church] is because the one body corresponds to the one triune God has called the church in one way
4:7–16	[In mild contrast w/ the body's unity] the Spirit gave spiritual gifts in proportion to the gifted people given to the Church by the ascended Christ, based upon Christ (as the divine Victor who descended to earth before ascending to heaven) having the right to give them to the church; & (specifically) Christ gave apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors, & teachers to equip the saints, so the saints will minister to edify the body until its maturity in faith matches Christ's mature stature; & the purpose for the body maturing is that (rather than being childishly unstable & subject to trickery) its maturity (resulting from the body speaking doctrinal truth lovingly) would match its head (Christ) The whole body, because of being joined to Christ by every part effectively doing its role, causes the body to grow (into the head) in order that it edify itself in love
4:17–24	[In light of Christ designing each part of the positionally unified body to cause it to grow to a maturity matching that of its head, Christ] GBels ought not live within the futile mindset (unenlightened-alienated-ignorant-blindness causing lewd & greedy uncleanness) of GUnbels; but the EphBels did not learn Christ through a futile mindset, but learned Christ by Him teaching them [thru gifted APEPTs He gave] non-futile Christ-centered knowledge, namely that [when they were joined to Christ] (1) regarding their old conduct, they (corporately) put off their being-corrupted old-man position [in Adam], (2) their mind was renewed, & (3) they had corporately put on their new-man position (created according to God in righteousness & holiness)
4:25–32	Bels are to please the HS (because He sealed us); e.g. speak God's truth w/ bels, because we are of the same body; resolving righteous indignation before it becomes sinful & allows Satan to divide the body; working laboriously to have something to give to needy bels (rather than stealing); speaking what edifies, rather than what destroys, to give grace to hearers; kindly forgiving rather than venting destructively because Christ thus forgave us.
(5:1–8a)	[Based on need to walk worthily (4:1)] bels should imitate God [by pleasing HS] & should love fellow-bels because JC died for us, but should not converse re immorality nor covetousness, nor speak filthily/foolishly, nor coarsely joke; but should thank (God & bels) because idolaters—e.g., immoral, unclean, & coveters—lose all reward, so bels should not think of rewards as guaranteed, because God's wrath comes upon idolatrous unbels, so enlightened bels ought not link w/ unbels
5:8b–14	Bels should live as God's enlightened children by showing <i>as approved</i> (to selves) what He likes; not fellowshiping w/ fruitless dark deeds (because the HS is source of all goodness) because unbels' secret deeds are shameful conversation, but light exposes darkness as darkness], so lethargic believers should arise from the corpses, so Christ will shine [His word] on them
5:15–21	[Based on the fruitfulness of living as God's enlightened children] bels should seek to live wisely & know God's will; specifically, rather than being drunk, they ought to let the (Holy) Spirit fill them [with the Word] that they speak to one another in psalms, sing to and thank the Lord, & mutually submit to each other
5:22–33	

REVIEW

Relationship of 5:21 to 5:22–6:9

Mutual submission (Ephesians 5:21) is bi-directional:

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| 1A. Wives respect husband as head | 1B. Husbands sacrificially loves wife |
| 2A. Children honor & obey parents | 2B. Parents train; not exasperate children |
| 3A. Slaves serve from heart as to JC | 3B. Masters forsake threat; consider <i>bema</i> |

5:24–33

5:22–24 Wives are to be in submission to their husbands as [part of] submitting to the Lord because the husband is head of the wife as [a feature of] Christ being the head of the Church and Savior of the body; so a correspondence exists between the church being in submission to Christ and wives being in submission to their husbands in all things

5:25–28 Husbands are to love their wives in the same manner as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her to sanctify and cleanse her [now] with a water-type-of-washing that He might present to Himself a glorious church—a holy and unblemished bride; so each husband (as head of his wife under Christ’s headship) ought to love his own wife as he loves himself—indeed, loving one’s wife is a way of loving oneself

5:29–33 **NEW EXPOSITION**

6:1–4 **NEW EXPOSITION**

Part 1 (5:29–33): Husbands are to be in submission by sacrificially loving their wives

5:29a [The reason husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies is] because no one ever hated his own flesh

5:29b [Rather than hating one’s own flesh, each person] nourishes and cherishes his flesh in the same way as Christ [nourishes and cherishes His body] the church

5:30 [The reason Christ nourishes and cherishes His body is] because we are members of His body, e.g., His flesh and bones

5:31 [For the reason that husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies as Christ loved His body, the church] a husband is to leave his parents and cleave to his wife and become one flesh with his wife

Genesis 2²¹ And the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall on Adam, and he slept; and He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh in its place. ²²Then the rib which the LORD God had taken from man He made into a woman, and He brought her to the man. ²³And Adam said: “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman [, because she was taken out of man.”

²⁴**Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and [shall] be joined to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.**

Why does Genesis 2:24 use the future tense?

Why does it mention parents [since neither Adam nor Eve had parents]?

What does *one flesh* mean?

5:32 Now, the mystery of a husband and wife becoming one flesh is great, but Paul [also] speaks [of an even greater mystery] Christ's union with the church

To which words does *this mystery* refer?

Does it refer to 5:29b–30?

Does it refer to 5:31?

If it refers to 5:31, how do 5:32a and 5:32b go together?

5:33 [Despite the greater mystery being Christ & the church] each husband is to love his own wife to the degree as [he loves] himself & each wife is to respect her husband

Part 2: Children are to be in submission by honoring parents; parents are to be in submission by not provoking them to wrath (6:1–4)

6:1 Children are to obey (in the Lord) their parents, because obedience to parents is right

6:2 [The proof that it is right for children to obey their parents is that the Law says] "Honor your father and mother," the commandment that is foremost in promise

Another promise does precede this promise, but that promise applies to all ten commandments. This promise applies only to the fifth commandment

Exodus 20³[1] You shall have no other gods before Me. ⁴[2]You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of *anything* that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; ⁵you shall not bow down to them nor serve them. For I, the LORD your God, *am* a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third & fourth *generations* of those who hate Me, ⁶but showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me & keep My commandments. ⁷[3]You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold *him* guiltless who takes His name in vain. ⁸[4]Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor & do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the LORD your God. *In it* you shall do no work: you, nor your son, nor your daughter, nor your male servant, nor your female servant, nor your cattle, nor your stranger who is within your gates. ¹¹For *in* six days the LORD made the heavens & the earth, the sea, & all that is in them, & rested the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day & hallowed it. ¹²[5]Honor your father & your mother, that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³[6]You shall not murder. ¹⁴[7]You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵[8]You shall not steal. ¹⁶[9]You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷[10]You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male servant, nor his female servant, nor his ox, nor his donkey, nor anything that is your neighbor's.

6:3 [The NT purpose for children obeying their parents is] that they may live long on earth

Although our English Bibles treat verse 3 as a quote, Paul borrows words from the OT, but does not quote. He intentionally departs from the OT wording:

Exodus 20¹²Honor your father & your mother, **that your days may be long upon the land which the LORD your God is giving you.**

The Old Testament promised the nation of Israel

Ephesians 6²“Honor your father and mother” . . . **that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth.**

The New Testament promises the church

6:4 Fathers [and mothers] are not to provoke their children to wrath [via unreasonable demands], but are to bring them up in training and admonition that comes from the Lord [through His word]

CONCLUSION