

***Submitting to One Another  
out of Reverence for Christ in  
our Homes***

Ephesians 5:15-21

September 21, 2008

The Purpose of the Church is...

*...to spread a passion for the supremacy of*

*God in all things for the joy of all peoples,*

*through Jesus Christ*

The Purpose of the Family is...

*...to spread a passion for the supremacy of*

*God in all things for the joy of all peoples,*

*through Jesus Christ*

# Matthew 22:29-30

*“But Jesus answered them [the Sadducees], ‘You are wrong, because you know neither the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven’”*

# John 10:27-30

*“My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one is able to snatch them out of the Father's hand. I and the Father are one.”*

# How do the Church and the Family Relate to One Another?

*The gathered people of God are the “big church” and the individual Christian family is the “small church.”*

Therefore, we ought to give much thought and energy to developing the church in our homes.

# Ephesians 5:18-21

*“And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.”*

# Submitting Means...

*...“to arrange under” or “to subordinate.”*

*Therefore in the context of Ephesians 5:21*

*this word means that we ought to arrange*

*ourselves under one another, that we ought to*

*subject ourselves to one another.*

# Matthew 20:25-28

*“But Jesus called them [his disciples] to him and said, ‘You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. **It shall not be so among you.** But whoever would be great among you must be your servant, and whoever would be first among you must be your slave, even as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.’”*

# Luke 14:7-11

*“Now he told a parable to those who were invited, when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ‘When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, and he who invited you both will come and say to you, “Give your place to this person,” and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, “Friend, move up higher.” Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. **For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted.**”*

# Philippians 2:3-5

*“Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, **but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.** Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus...”*

# 1 Peter 5:1-7

*“So I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, as well as a partaker in the glory that is going to be revealed: shepherd the flock of God that is among you, exercising oversight, not under compulsion, but willingly, as God would have you; not for shameful gain, but eagerly; **not domineering over those in your charge**, but being examples to the flock. And when the chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the unfading crown of glory.*”

# 1 Peter 5:1-7

*...Likewise, you who are younger, be subject to the elders. **Clothe yourselves, all of you, with humility toward one another,** for ‘God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble.’ Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you.”*

# Key Questions:

- What's the context of this mutual submission supposed to be?
- How is this command supposed to be worked out in daily life?

# Three Contexts for Obedience:

1. The Christian Family;
2. Small clusters of Christian families that meet regularly and otherwise share their lives and ministries together;
3. The larger gatherings of the church like Sunday morning worship or the men's retreat.