

***Alignment:***  
***Playing Your Role Well***

***PASTOR MIKE YODER • EPHESIANS 5:21–6:9***





*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

**Ephesians 5:21**



*Wives, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord.*

**Ephesians 5:22**



*For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the Church, His Body, of which He is the Savior.*

**Ephesians 5:23**



*Now as the Church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.*

**Ephesians 5:24**



*Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the Church  
and gave Himself up for her*

**Ephesians 5:25**



*to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the Word,*



*and to present her to Himself as a radiant Church,  
without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy  
and blameless.*



*In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.*



*After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the Church —*

**Ephesians 5:29**



*for we are members of His Body.*

**Ephesians 5:30**



*“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.”*

**Ephesians 5:31**



*This is a profound mystery — but I am talking about Christ and the Church.*



*However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.*

**Ephesians 5:33**



*Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.*

**Ephesians 6:1**



*“Honor your father and mother” — which is the first commandment with a promise —*



*“so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”*

**Ephesians 6:3**



*Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.*



*Slaves, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.*



*Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you,  
but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart.*

**Ephesians 6:6**



*Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people,*

**Ephesians 6:7**



*because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.*



*And masters, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that He who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with Him.*



**Paul wants the witness of the household to reflect the Gospel in every way and in all relationships.**



# The Marriage Dance (5:22–33)





**Marriage is not a vehicle for self-actualization. If we see it as such, we will be disillusioned and disappointed. Marriage is an embedded picture of the Gospel, a Gospel tract.**

**Russell Moore**



Those in authority have different roles with greater responsibility, but they are not better roles. The value, dignity, or worth of the members of the Christian household in a subordinate position is no less than that of those in authority.

**Peter T. O'Brien**



The recipe for this to function well is for both sides to fulfill their calling well.



**Wives:** a wife portrays the Gospel through her willing submission to her husband.





Now the very notion of submission to authority is out of fashion today. It is totally at variance with contemporary attitudes of permissiveness and freedom. Almost nothing is calculated to arouse more angry protest than talk of 'subjection'. Ours is an age of liberation, and anything savoring of oppression is deeply resented and strongly resisted. We have to try to disinfect [submission] of this and to penetrate into its essential biblical meaning.

**John Stott**



Jesus' willing acceptance of this role was wholly voluntary, a gift to His Father. I discovered here that my submission in marriage was a gift I offered, not a duty coerced from me.

**Kathy Keller**



I will never be one to dismiss or make light of the horrible record of abuse suffered by women at the hands of men who wielded twisted and unbiblical definitions of “headship” and “submission” as their primary weapon. The church should not overlook or minimize one iota of that suffering. But I would beg that we not throw the baby out along with the dirty bathwater. Bail bathwater, by all means available, but save the baby, which in this case is the rightful acceptance of gender roles as Jesus has both defined and embodied them.

**Kathy Keller**



# Husbands





**Ephesians 5:21-6:9 (NIV)**

<sup>21</sup> Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

<sup>22</sup> **Wives**, submit yourselves to your own husbands as you do to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. <sup>24</sup> Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> **Husbands**, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her <sup>26</sup> to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, <sup>27</sup> and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. <sup>28</sup> In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—<sup>30</sup> for we are members of his body. <sup>31</sup> “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” <sup>32</sup> This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

**6 Children**, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. <sup>2</sup> “Honor your father and mother”—which is the first commandment with a promise—<sup>3</sup> “so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth.”<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>4</sup> **Fathers**, do not exasperate your children; instead, bring them up in the training and instruction of the Lord.

<sup>5</sup> **Slaves**, obey your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ. <sup>6</sup> Obey them not only to win their favor when their eye is on you, but as slaves of Christ, doing the will of God from your heart. <sup>7</sup> Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, <sup>8</sup> because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.

<sup>9</sup> And **masters**, treat your slaves in the same way. Do not threaten them, since you know that he who is both their Master and yours is in heaven, and there is no favoritism with him.

**Colossians 3:18-4:1 (NIV)**

<sup>18</sup> **Wives**, submit yourselves to your husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.

<sup>19</sup> **Husbands**, love your wives and do not be harsh with them.

<sup>20</sup> **Children**, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord.

<sup>21</sup> **Fathers**, do not embitter your children, or they will become discouraged.

<sup>22</sup> **Slaves**, obey your earthly masters in everything; and do it, not only when their eye is on you and to curry their favor, but with sincerity of heart and reverence for the Lord. <sup>23</sup> Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, <sup>24</sup> since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who does wrong will be repaid for their wrongs; and there is no favoritism.

**4 Masters**, provide your slaves with what is right and fair, because you know that you also have a Master in heaven.



**A husband's leadership is about a special accountability for sabotaging his own wants and appetites with a forward-looking plan for the best interest of his wife and children.**

**Russell Moore**



Headship is...about constantly evaluating how to step up first to lay one's life down for one's family.

**Russell Moore**



Whenever the husband's headship mirrors the headship of Christ, then the wife's submission to the protection and provision of his love, far from detracting from her womanhood, will positively enrich it.

**John Stott**



The tender, serving authority of a husband's headship and the strong, gracious gift of a wife's submission restore us to who we were meant to be at creation.

**Kathy Keller**



# The Family Playbook (6:1–4)





# Parents (*Father*)





# Children





# The Workplace Posture (6:5–9)





# **Servants** (*Workers*)





# Masters (*Bosses*)





Living according to God's  
script shows the Spirit's power  
and the Gospel's beauty.

