

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS



*These discussion questions are designed to extend the impact of the Sunday message. You can use them for your personal Bible study, family study, and/or small group study.*

### Overview

Sermon: *Live in Submission*

*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 (NIV)*

Submission is defined as placing oneself under the authority of another. No wonder this passage gets such a bad rap. The word “submit” appears antiquated in the context of marriage. When many read it, what is implied is dominance and oppression.

In our relationship with God we are to humbly submit to Him in order to give him honor. Jesus taught and modeled a life of humility and service. “...*whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.*” – Matthew 20:26-28

The Apostle Paul is applying Jesus’ teachings in a patriarchal culture. His words are not oppressive they are revolutionary. There is better way to think of submission to your spouse, and Paul says it’s mutual.

### Discussion

1. Share some common stereotypes about marriages. Why do you think many people have a pessimistic view of marriage?
2. Read Ephesians 5:18-33. How is being full of the Spirit a prerequisite to the rest of the passage?
3. This passage has been viewed in terms of authority, power, ruling, and obedience. “Head” can also be translated as “source.” How is this passage better interpreted through humility and service?
4. How are husbands to love and submit/serve their wives? What does it mean that wives are to love and submit/serve “their own” husbands? Who is addressed more in this passage, husbands or wives? Why?
5. How is the marriage relationship like the Gospel of Jesus Christ? How has the Gospel advanced today in terms of equality in marital relationships?
6. What does it look like to mutually submit to /love/honor one another?

### Application

7. How will you choose to serve your spouse this week?
8. Can these verses be applied to all relationships? Explain.

**March 24, 2019**