

Ephesians 5:21-6:9

Submission and humility is a mark of a mature believer

Be humble in all your relationships. Submit to others in all relationships and consider others better than yourselves. Do this out of your love for Christ – so others can know how to become a mature follower of Him.

Submit in everything?

Where do we end? Do we end with being a Christ follower? We know that we need to keep pressing on until Christ returns or we die, whichever comes first but do we ever feel like we are mature? We are no longer sipping spiritual milk but are able to chew on the spiritual meat of God's Word. When do we get there? Where is that line that we can say we feel close to God? Is it when we are praying longer prayers? When we are having a worship experience in our cars with Hillsong on our player? When we spend an hour studying our Bible everyday? Serve on 15 mission trips? Lead a Bible study? Is it when our iPod is filled with nothing but Christian music? How do we see others and view them as imitators of God like we talked about last week? We compare ourselves to others who are spiritually mature only to hope we can achieve their outward expression of their love for God one day.

How do we truly measure up in our spiritual walk? How do we know if we are mature in Christ? Christ gave us two commands that summarized the Ten Commandments: Love God and Love others. Everything we compare ourselves too must begin with those two commands. Paul has talked about loving God through the first part of Ephesians and this next part we talk about what it means to truly show an outward expression of our Christian maturity; loving others. How do we love others, through humble submission?

Paul explains in these set of verses what that means to be a mature follower of Christ. Someone who is fully devoted to God has to submit in his or her relationships. Paul explains this in three key areas of our lives, marriage, parents and our workplace.

A wife submits to and respects her husband (22-24; 33)

Submission is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband's leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts.

Husband is head and loves his wife (25-29; 33)

Headship is the divine calling of a husband to take primary responsibility for Christ-like, servant leadership, protection, and provision in the home.

Submission is a voluntary placement of our self under another to care for, learn from, and grow closer in relationships.

Submit – Be subject, to yield (*hypotaso*)

So What?

If humility is a mark of a mature Christian then that is something we should work on. Paul gives us a clear way of developing humility because being humble is not something you can really work on. So what do you do to become humble? As Paul tells us we submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Submission is truly practicing humility; in all of our relationships, in everything we do. Philippians 2:3.

In our jobs, we are to be the best employee we can be regardless of how we are being treated. We treat our parents with honor; we respect those in authority over us, whether it is your parents, your boss, your professor, or even the group leader. We submit, willingly, not with resentment, not anger, not begrudgingly but with love for Christ. Sometimes, it is hard to love that person, but if you love Christ He helps you submit out of love for Him. Submission is not easy; however it is truly the mark of a mature believer.

When we submit in everything, we place others better than ourselves. Kind of like Christ did. He came, not thinking of equality with God to leverage power, but enough to humble himself in obedience to God and die on the cross for us. For everything about us, that's love, that's humility, that's true submission in its purest form. When that happens in your relationships, among the body of Christ and our lives are changed. You know you are a mature believer and best of all you hear the voice of God with utmost clarity and know His good and pleasing will for your life.

How can you, as an adult, honor your parents?

What are some ways that parents, or fathers, provoke/discourage their children to anger?

What does submission mean?

How is a husband supposed to treat his wife in marriage?

How is a wife supposed to treat her husband in marriage?

What is the attitude that we are to have toward those we work under?

What are the qualities of a good employee; a good employer?

What are ways you can tell someone is spiritually mature?

What is the God-given role of a wife in marriage; a husband?