**In Christ** (graphic)

**Families “in Christ”**

(Ephesians 5:21)

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

(Ephesians 5:22-33)

**“**Wives, **submit** yourselves to your own husbands **as you do to the Lord**. **23**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. **24**Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.**25Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her** **26**to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27**and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies**. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29**After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church— **30**for we are members of his body. **31**“For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” **32**This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband**.”

1. **Marriage** in Christ.

**Wives are made to love**, want to love, and expect love.

**Husbands are made to be respected**, want respect, and expect respect.

**Without love** from him, she reacts **without respect**.

**Without respect** from her, he reacts **without love**.

When a **husband** feels **disrespected**, it is especially hard to **love** his wife.

When a **wife** feels **unloved**, it is especially hard to **respect** her husband.

Often, **we focus on our own needs** and simply **overlook** the needs of our spouse.

1. **Children** in Christ.

(Ephesians 6:1-3)

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

(Colossians 3:20)

“Children, **obey** your parents in everything, for this **pleases the Lord**.”

1. **Parenting** in Christ.

(Ephesians 6:4)

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

(Colossians 3:21)

“Fathers, **do not embitter your children**, or they will become **discouraged**.”

 Your Parenting should **deserve** obedience rather than **demand** it.

1. Our “**work**” in Christ

(Ephesians 6:5-9)

“Slaves, **obey** your earthly masters with respect and fear, and with sincerity of heart, **just as you would obey Christ**. **6**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**. **7**Serve wholeheartedly, **as if you were serving the Lord, not people**, **8**because you know that the Lord will reward each one for whatever good they do, whether they are slave or free.**9**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.

 Your **vocation** is your **ministry location**.