

## Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Sermon Road Map

Pastor Roger W. Huffman

Ephesians 5:21-6:4

October 2, 2016

### Blessed is the family that delights in living subordinate to Christ.

What stood out when the 2<sup>nd</sup> Lesson was read? For most... Upon further study...

*submit* - Greek: *hypotasso* = persons placed in an “order” or “rank” under the authority of another person. **Subordinate** - **not** a matter of value or ability!

<sup>18</sup> **But let the Spirit fill you...** <sup>21</sup> *as you are subordinate to one another out of respect for Christ.*

*Wives, be subordinate to your husbands as you are subordinate to the Lord* GWTN

- ❖ Christians gladly subordinate themselves to Christ our Head and Savior.
  - Yes, but let’s be clear **why**?
    - ♦ If merely because of his power and role as judge - **not done gladly!**
    - ♦ Under this authority (kingship) we find:
      - faithful refuge, protection, safety, **rescue from all our enemies**
      - a home of **love**, faithful companionship, guilt removal, peace
      - wisdom, guidance, loving discipline, growth, **rescue from evil me**
    - ♦ God brought us into Jesus’ kingdom **under his kingship to save us.**
  - Do we **always gladly** subordinate ourselves to Christ?
    - ♦ Our sinful nature **never** subordinates itself to Christ Jesus!
      - *For the mind-set of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit itself to God’s law, for it is unable to do so.* Romans 8:7 HCSB
      - **Sin views** subordination to God as a loss of freedom/independence.
      - **Sin thinks** subordination to God is a loss of self-determination.
      - **Sin views** subordination to God as demeaning.
    - ♦ That’s why even Christians struggle to subordinate themselves to Christ
    - ♦ In faith we desire to crucify this foolish and deadly rebellious nature
      - I gladly subordinate myself to Jesus, so he can rescue me from *old me*
      - Being subordinate to his word, he rescues me from evil, sets me free
      - “*Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.*” John 8:34-36 NIV
  - **Reverence for Christ:** look up to, respect, honor, worship my saving Lord
    - ♦ Revere Jesus: The One you count on for help - One you value most!
    - ♦ Revere Jesus: Delight to serve, following his life-giving word
    - ♦ Contrast: Treat Jesus as your butler - your puppet on strings - **not** Lord!
      - If you don’t submit to the Lord you are your own lord & savior. Fool!

### Blessed is the family that delights in living subordinate to Christ.

- ❖ Delight to live subordinate in your Church family
  - Romans 12 - <sup>3</sup> *Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. ...* <sup>5</sup> *in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. ...*
  - <sup>9</sup> *Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good.* <sup>10</sup> *Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.* NIV
  - Subordinate to Christ = devote yourself to each other’s well being in Him
  - The apostles call us *brothers and sisters in Christ* for a reason.
  - Like *brothers in arms we have each other’s backs* in Christ vs. sin
- ❖ God designed order and assigned roles for us to serve in our families.
  - The order is clear - per God’s design from Creation (Paradise)
  - Headship of the husband - God holds **him accountable** for his family
    - ♦ Sin ruins: Husbands fail, his family undermines his role
    - ♦ A *Head* puts the interest of his own (those under his care) above self - empowered by Christ’s love
      - True of good Generals, Presidents of nations and companies
      - A *Head* can’t do his job without this authority
  - Wives - God-designed complementing helper. God’s design is good!
    - ♦ Christian wives delight in this role as they delight in being under Christ
  - Children: subordinate to be equipped for their adults roles as followers of Jesus - Christian men and women
  - God’s ultimate design is challenged when your spouse isn’t in Christ
    - ♦ Husband - if wife doesn’t gladly submit to Jesus & model to children
    - ♦ Wife - if husband doesn’t know how to love, serve, and lead in Christ
  - Much more could be said, but start delighting in your role **under Christ!**
    - ♦ <sup>8</sup> *For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God —* <sup>9</sup> *not by works, so that no one can boast.* <sup>10</sup> *For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.* Ephesians 2 - NIV
    - ♦ Under Christ’s kingdom (order) Jesus rescues us from sin’s foolishness, selfishness, emptiness - to live richly in righteousness

### Blessed is the family that delights in living subordinate to Christ.