**Series**: Immeasurable Greatness of His Power

**Ephesians** 5:15-6:9

**Title**: 9. Places of Power - Marriage, Parenting, Workplace (Part 2)

**Description**: Marriage, Parenting, the Workplace: 3 places where Submission has to be redeemed in order to be filled with the Holy Spirit.

# Intro

* Continued from last week: Filling with the Holy Spirit, because "the days are evil"
  + Battleground = the World
  + Redeeming the time by Being Filled with the Holy Spirit: x4
    - 1. **speaking** to "yourselves" in Psalms, Hymns, Spiritual Songs
    - 2. **singing** and making melody in your heart to the Lord
    - 3. **giving** **thanks** always and for all to God the Father through our Lord Jesus Christ
    - NOW: 4. **Submitting ... to One Another**!
* ***Submission***: Objected! Hated, Uncomfortable topic...due to
  + **1. our own pride**, independence. Desire to be 'accountable only to me'
  + **2. being under the authority** of those who are accountable only to themselves! e.g. self-infatuated husbands, wives, parents, bosses... the most Painful arenas of 'evil days'.
* ! thinking about it : **submission = fabric of safe society**. What's worse than dictatorship is anarchy!
* The only time un-submission is legit is when it pushes the authority under better accountability - i.e. God!
  + cf Rom 13 - evil days still given authority to restrain evil!

For 'the government' is the servant of God, an avenger who carries out God's wrath on the wrongdoer. 5 Therefore one must be in subjection (Rom 13:1)

* **DEF: "Submission"** - under-mission, LIT '*arrange oneself under*' the authority in the support of the mission. Remind us: Eph and the Work of God - to bring all under the authority of Christ!
* **LEGITIMATE SUBMISSION** : ARRANGING ONESELF UNDER THE MISSION OF GOD

# Read 5:15-6-9

## Observe

* 3 spheres, addressed in pairs, one having authority in that sphere. Marriage: Husband, wife; Home: Parent, child. Workplace: Boss, employee
  + All Submission must be redeemed - otherwise it is producing devastations!!! - evil days

# Proposition: Submission Redeemed

Outline this morning:

* 1. What Redeemed Submission Looks Like
* 2. How it is Accomplished, in Marriage, the Home, Workplace

**PRAY**

## What Redeemed Submission looks like (="to one another")

* Described as actions
* Observe:
  + Pairs of ['head'] and ['follower'], both act
    - Head - Follower
    - 5:33) Love - Respect
    - 6:1-4) Nourish (bring them up) - Honour
    - 6:7,9) Serving - Serving
  + Head has a Priority - to act for the good of the follower;
    - *IE to be* ***submitted******to*** the good of the follower.
  + and the Follower: supporting the goal of ***(submitted to)*** the head
* So :
* when we talk about **submission** we mustbear 2 kinds in mind: (and both necessary!)
  + "Submission" in respect to Order, submission to an "Authority" - 1 directional
  + "Submission" in respect to "Love" - a fulfilment of the 2nd greatest commandment - so that in Loving people, we are submitting to their good. >> This is the 4th means of Filling of the Holy Spirit : 5:21a, ***submitting to one another***
    - [! - insanity of a husband pressing submission in the name of Eph5:22 but not himself submitting to his wife's good]

## How to Redeem Submission? (=submission to Christ in all)

What redeems illegitimate submission into Legitimate Submission? (21), "*submitting to one another ...* ***out of reverence for Christ***"

* 22 - submit to your own husbands *as to the Lord*
* 25 - Husbands love your wives *as Christ loved*, 29 - just as Christ does
* 6:1 - Children obey your parents *in the Lord*
* 6:4 - in the discipline and instruction *of the Lord*
* 6:7 - rendering a good service *as to the Lord*
* >> How do we accomplish true submission in marriage, home, workplace: *in, as, of, to* ***the Lord****.*
  + In each sphere [Marriage, Home, Workplace], Each role [Head, Follower] has to come under the authority of Christ. (IE: God's Great Plan: the Fullness of Christ)
  + APP: Light in the World! You might be the only Christian in that relationship: seek to conform it to God's redemptive plan. !What power if both parties both conforming to Christ! = a bit of Heaven! Why does my marriage feel like Hell? Is it a place brought under the authority of Jesus?

**Minister Grace:** 2 prepositions : ***hupo*** [under] and ***huper*** [above] - Both in our text. When used of Christ, huper(above) describes his selfless sacrifice for us. Isn't that odd?! But that's exactly what He did for us. The Master, 25 " gave himself up for us". God corrected our unsubmission by becoming our servant! Marvel-worthy correction: by submitting what didn't have to.

And laying down this standard for us, said do likewise! "Have this mind in you" (Php 2:5)

# Application

In each sphere the leader is given the responsibility to redeem that sphere it in the evil day. (! Creation had all these 3!) Husbands! Parents! Employers! I believe it will be most beneficial for us to look at all 3 through the goal of each sphere.

## Redeeming Marriage

**(1st and longest** - submission = 75% of filling, 50% of that is redeeming submission in marriage!)

The goal of the head: Looks back to creation in (31), from Gen 2:24,  *the two shall become* ***one flesh***

* **FCF**: Not one! If you've been married for more than 2 weeks you've realised it takes hard work.
  + 2 individuals coping. "My lot in life", like a resignation, 'better than not'.
  + Common complaints: Don't have your attention; When I need you you're not there. You discard me, joke about me to others. Treat me like your child.
  + Sharing a table and a bed is not Being One. There might be zero talk about divorce, but marriage needs to be redeemed.
  + You need a course, not 10min in a sermon.
* **How is Oneness made?** (In each sphere, starts with the submitted party)
  + (22) "***Wives, submit to your own husbands***" = Support your husband - He has an impossible Goal from the Lord
    - PS! You are submitted - fact, not choice. Embrace it.
    - His Goal is daunting - help him to take the reigns. The Fall has made us bad leaders. We don't need critics, but encouragers. When you let him take the reigns, you're really giving Christ the reigns. Of course, **"as to the Lord", "as is fitting"** (Col 3:18). But as a Christian, the Holy Spirit has done the change - now facilitate. He will fail, and make mistakes. But he will learn to lead. If he's an unbeliever, submit as far as possible for the sake of the marriage to be what it ought. But refuse what is contrary to Christ.
    - Listen to him, "respect" (33). Don't try to control everything. Be his strength, encourager
  + (25) ***Husbands, Love your wives***
    - ILLUS: When you look into the Mirror - see her, (28).
    - Def "Love" - willing self-giving up for good of his wife, without expecting compensation. ILLUS: "*Christ for us*"
    - !Not the Priest! **But 28-29**
      * **nourish**: build her up
      * **cherish**: warmth, protection
    - **APP**: declare her beauty. You've got her and will never leave.
    - You're the Head. Take responsibility for Redeemed Marriage - bring all aspects under Christ. Cut out what dishonours him - 'no blemish'. Nurture what is right.
  + And as she supports your lead, the Battle is Won.

## Redeeming Parenting

The goal of the leader: Looks back again, from Ex20:12, *go well with you and that you may live long in the land*

* **FCF**: Children left to sinful self-directed nature - No hope for such. Oblivious to eternal standing, furthermore, self-driven: despised by peers, avoided by society, destructive in marriage. Versus "that it may go well with you!"
* How is a 'prosperous' life prepared for children?
  + (**4b**) *bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.*
  + "*bring up*" = 'nourish - plant to be attended to.
  + "*of the Lord*" - worldview by:
    - discipline - **painful** stuff which **produces righteous** harvest - **Heb 12:11** ('peaceful fruit of righteousness'). Obedience required and learned - for their good
    - instruction (mind-counsel) -
* **NB Notes**:
  + **! Addressed to 'fathers'** though applies to parents. Head of the home! Abdicate = Abandon. Cannot leave the wife alone to deal with discipline of children. You play the most vital role in redeeming what is lost
  + **! Rebuke to fathers** - Effectiveness of this discipline depends on winning their trust. Children will not submit to an unjust parent for long; just as a wife will to a husband.
* So children - obey; Fathers - nourish: Both are to redeem Right Submission.

## 3. Redeeming the Workplace

The goal of the leader: to do God's will! (6:6-7) That sounds so general, but that's what makes it stunning,

doing the will of God from the heart, 7 rendering service with a good will as to the Lord and not to man

* **FCF**: choosing a career or feeling itchy in the current one, "what is God's will for my life?" As many occupations as there are in the world, there are as many ways of doing God's will! The problem is we've created jobs and attitudes that work against redeeming the evil day!
* To serve as serving Christ. > Whether employee or employer, the job is the same! v9a: " Masters, do the same" - The employee serving God's will, the Employer serving God's will - in different ways... but all bringing all in alignment with Christ.
* 2 specific anti-Christian behaviours, keenly felt in the work place - to be redeemed
  + **Employees**: slackness, stealing, eye-service - No! Submit to the Goal of the Employer
  + **Employers:** abuse, chaining them to your profit, withholding money, harsh. No! Submit to the Good of the Employee

# Summarised

*In Each sphere …marriage, home, workplace…each role …head, body… becoming submitted to Christ*

* "Submission" is all about God's Mission of redemption by bringing everything under Christ. Under Christ - more than fabric of safe society - Liberated Living. That already now we can experience the joys of God's design; And through that prove it to the world around!
* *Filling of the Holy Spirit* goes beyond Worship and Private Communion: in Marriage, Parenting, Workplace - Submission in these areas must be Redeemed
* **God has appointed Heads** : Husbands, Parents, Owners - Take God's Mandate! and
* **God has appointed Bodies** : support!