



Negotiating the Relationship Maze

Series: Ephesians, #18

Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

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September 13, 2026

Theme: **Only the Holy Spirit's control makes your relationships godly.**

The Holy Spirit's control in your church relationships.

1. The action: mutual submission. (5:21)
2. The motivation: in the fear of Christ. (5:21)

The Holy Spirit's control in your family relationships.

1. A wife to her husband: submission and respect. (5:22-24, 33)
2. A husband to his wife: love. (5:25-33)
3. A child to his/her parent: obey and honor. (6:1-3)
4. A father to his child: do not provoke, but nurture. (6:4)

The Holy Spirit's control in your work relationships.

1. An employee to his/her employer: obey and serve as to Christ. (6:5-8)
2. An employer to his/her employee: do good and do not threaten. (6:9)

In My Life This Week

As you use this daily guide, write out your observations and responses on a separate piece of paper and save them with this sheet for reference.

Monday. Read 5:18 - 6:9. Remember that 5:21 is a *hinge verse*, looking back to 5:18 and also the basis for 5:22 - 6:9. Today focus on what it means to be “filled with the Spirit”—being under the Holy Spirit’s control and direction. Throughout the day ask yourself if what you are thinking, saying and doing is under His control.

Tuesday. Think about what God asks you to do when He directs “be subject to one another in the fear of Christ.” He is talking about relationships with other believers. It takes humility and the Holy Spirit’s control to not think more highly of ourselves than we ought to (see Romans 12:3) and have the attitude of being willing to submit to each other. How are you doing in submitting?

Wednesday. Today we turn our attention to family relationships. Review 5:22 - 6:4. You are responsible for what you think and do—not what your spouse, children or parents think and do. Each attitude and action described is a voluntary submission to God and to these other people. Take a careful look at these relationships and where you need to make any corrections as well as where you need to grow.

Thursday. In 6:5-9 Paul deals with work relationships. What does it mean to do your work for another “as to Christ”? Take careful note of the other attitudes we are to have in our work. If you are a manager or employer, what does God ask you to be and do for your employees, and why?

Friday – Saturday. On Sunday we plan to look at 6:10-13. Read and think through these verses as you prepare for our time of worship together.