

## Reflections on the Character of God

The reflection section has 5 scriptures that pertain to this week's aspect of God's character. Take one passage a day and reflect on it in the context you find. Note your insights.

The life response sections gives you 2 more verses to ponder. These passages relate to your response to the name, title or attribute of God. Write down practical responses.

### God's Joy

**Reflection: Zephaniah 3:17; Luke 10:21; Luke 15:3-7; Romans 14:17; Hebrews 12:2**

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**Life Response: Matthew 5:11,12; Philippians 4:4**

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### A Discipleship Journey

**Relate - Relating in the Family - October 17, 2021**

God has established three human institutions in the world

- 1) [The church](#)
- 2) [Human government](#)
- 3) [The Family](#)

Ephesians 5:21 - 6:4

#### **General instructions:**

*vs 21 "submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ."*

The word submission has nothing to do with being [subservient](#).

Submitting is something that a person does [voluntarily](#).

We are to be submissive to one another "out of reverence for Christ."

Submission is [universal](#). We all must submit to someone.

#### **Instructions for Wives:**

*Vs 22 "Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord."*

"as to the Lord." In other words, their submission to their husbands is a part of their submission to Christ.

*vs 23 "For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church"*

The word "head" in Scripture refers to [authority](#) not [being](#).

There is an advantage in being under someone's authority:

- 1) The person in authority bears all the responsibility.
- 2) The person in authority provides protection, guidance, and counsel.

#### **Instructions for husbands:**

*verse 25, "Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her."*

The love which the husband is to have for his wife is the very love of God Himself.

*verse 28 "In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself."*

When we are joined together in holy matrimony, we are no longer two separate people, but God joins us together as one. Therefore, when a man loves his wife, he is actually loving **himself**.

*"If you want to change the world, go home and love your family." - Mother Teresa*

#### **Instructions for children:**

*6:1 "Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right."*

If you honor the source of life you are blessed with **more life**.

Final instruction for Fathers: We are to discipline our children the way that the Lord disciplines us, with a firm but gentle hand.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

- 1) **Looking at the importance of the family; in what ways do you see the attack on the family unit in our nation?**
- 2) **Why does our society see submission as a negative thing?**
- 3) **Read Ephesians 5:21-6:4 - What are some practical ways we can submit one to another? How does this show a reverence for Christ?**
- 4) **Verse 23 says "the husband is the head of the wife" what are some advantages to being under Christ's headship? How do these carry over to a relationship between husband and wife?**
- 5) **How can a husband practically love his wife as Christ loves the church? What does this kind of love look like?**
- 6) **For children how is honor a step above obedience? What does honor look like in the home?**

**Prayer: Take some time to share any struggles you face in relating as a family. Pray together for families within the church and our community.**