

Message in a Sentence:

*God's going fishing . . .
 . . . and His Church is the bait!*

Every Church must ask the question:

Is God catching anything with us?

How do we become 'bait' that catches fish?

“Come, follow me,” said Jesus, “and I will teach you how to catch men & women.”

Demonstration #1: Unity

- Ephesians 4:1-16

Demonstration #2: Harmony

- Ephesians 4:17 – 5:1

Demonstration #3: Courage

- Ephesians 5:1-20

Demonstration #4: Mutual Submission

- Ephesians 5:21 – 6:9

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Ephesians 5:21

Warning: This biblical passage has been thoroughly abused and taken out of context far too often!

NOTE – Context is key to embracing this text!

Be imitators of God, then, as dearly loved children, and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:1-2

As dearly loved children

Live a life of love, just as
Christ loved us and gave
himself up for us

Submit to one another out
of reverence for Christ.

... we're a family!

*... Jesus is our
example*

*... we are now the
example*

Biblical submission:

a. Does not mean “domination”

Submit to one another . . .

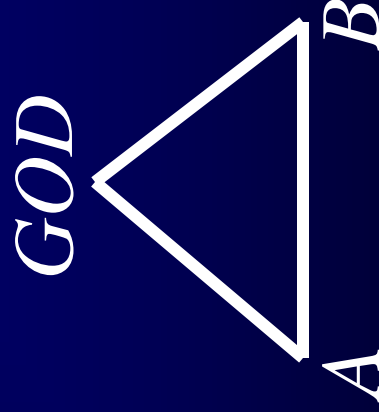
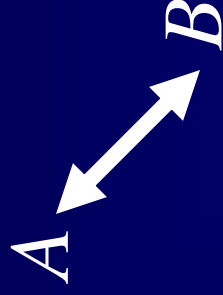
b. Involves three participants, not two.

- You . . . Someone else . . . & GOD!

Submission is really the practice of honouring other people under the Headship of Jesus Christ.

Biblical Submission:

- is not
- but rather



It ends the power
struggle, because
God is in charge!!

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ

1. Wives, submit to your husbands . . .
Husbands, love your wives as Christ loved the Church . . .
2. Children, obey your parents
Fathers, do not exasperate your children . . .
3. Slaves, obey your earthly masters . . .
Masters, treat your slaves in the same way . . .

QUESTION: What makes this Bible passage difficult for many of us?

- Each relationship Paul includes has an uneven balance of authority within it.

... and this is exactly where our opportunity is to be the “bait” God wants to use!

1. If you are in a position of Authority:

Cultivate - defn - to prepare the soil for the
planting & raising of crops.

*Use your authority to nurture and
bring out the beauty and potential of
those you are responsible for.*

Serve others with the authority you
have been given

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her . . . to present her to himself as a radiant church.

verses 25-27

Fathers, do not exasperate your children; instead bring them up in the training and admiration of the Lord.

verse 4

Masters, treat your slaves in the same way . . . with respect & fear and with sincerity of heart, just as you would obey Christ.

verse 5

Problem:

Without God, we tend to
Dominate, *not* Cultivate

Instead of using the authority we have been given to spend on others, we spend it on ourselves:

- *because we're selfish*
- *because we're fearful*
- *because we're angry & hurt*
- *because we've forgotten who we are*

2. If you are Under Authority:

Sustain - defn - to keep in a position of good repair; to keep from yielding or failing during stress/difficulty.

Use your energies and gifts to preserve others, and uphold them in their responsibilities.

Serve others with the gifts you
have been given

Wives, *submit to your husbands as to the Lord.*

verses 22

Children, *obey your parents in the Lord.*

verse 1

Slaves, *obey your earthly masters with respect & fear,
just as you would the Lord.*

verse 5

Problem:

Without God, we tend to
Undermine, *not* Sustain

Instead of using our strengths & energies to sustain those responsible for us, we try to undermine their authority & dishonour it.

- *because* we're selfish
- *because* we're fearful
- *because* we're angry & hurt
- *because* we've forgotten who we are

Does this not describe God?

Does He not use His authority to cultivate you?

... to work with you & prepare you to be
all that He created you to be?

Does He not use His humility to sustain you?

... to keep you from yielding or failing
during stress, temptation & confusion?

A Final, most essential truth:

It is impossible to cultivate and sustain others by human means . . .

. . . It can only happen through God's Spirit within you.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit.
Ephesians 5:18

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are illiterate has increased from 400 million to 600 million.

There are a number of reasons for this. One is that the population of the world is growing rapidly. Another is that the number of people who are illiterate is increasing in many of the developing countries. This is because of a number of factors, including a lack of access to education, a lack of resources, and a lack of political will.

One of the main reasons for the increase in illiteracy is the lack of access to education. In many developing countries, there are not enough schools, and the quality of education is poor. This means that many children do not go to school, and those who do often do not learn to read and write.

Another reason for the increase in illiteracy is the lack of resources. In many developing countries, there is not enough money to invest in education. This means that there are not enough teachers, and the schools are often overcrowded.

A third reason for the increase in illiteracy is the lack of political will. In many developing countries, the government does not prioritize education. This means that there is not enough money invested in education, and the quality of education is poor.

There are a number of ways to reduce the number of illiterate people in the world. One way is to increase access to education. This can be done by building more schools, and by improving the quality of education. Another way is to increase resources for education. This can be done by increasing the amount of money invested in education.

Finally, it is important to have political will to prioritize education. This means that the government must invest in education, and must ensure that the quality of education is high. Only then can we hope to reduce the number of illiterate people in the world.

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