

WEEK 2:  
NOVEMBER 13

THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE FAMILY  
EPHESIANS 5:21-33 & 6:1-4

# FELLOWSHIP

“LOVE ONE ANOTHER”

## DEVOTIONAL GUIDE

### MONDAY

*Be subject to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

Ephesians 5:21, NRSV

*In Paul's instructions on family life, we learn one of the key components to Christian fellowship: Mutual submission. The basis for this is the life of Christ, "who loved the church and gave himself up for her..."*

*The family, alongside of marriages, is a primary place of real Christian fellowship. It is here that we practice the values of Christ and his kingdom; here that we witness to what the love of Christ is like and how it changes us. There is hierarchy in these relationships but it is Christian hierarchy—very different from the world's. It is a hierarchy of submission and self-sacrificing love. This is Christian fellowship, whether practiced in the family unit or in the church community.* - John Sowers

What does it mean to you to be subject to one another?

Notice in Ephesians 5:21 why we are to be subject to one another. How does this make a difference in what submission means to you and your ability to do it?

### TUESDAY

- Submission fosters freedom. (Freedom is the ability to lay down the burden of always needing to get our own way.)
- Submission is a clear call to all Christians. (Read Mark 8:34 & 1 Corinthians 9:20)
- Submission brings joy. (Surrendering our rights for the needs of others can have an amazingly positive effect upon us.)
- Submission requires prayer and discernment. (How do we know when to hold on and when to let go?)

from One Anothering by Rev. Richard C. Meyer

### WEDNESDAY

*Christ's love makes the church whole. His words evoke her beauty.  
Everything he does and says is designed to bring the best out of her,  
dressing her in dazzling white silk, radiant with holiness.*

Ephesians 5:26-27, The Message

Pay attention to the words you use today. Think about how your words might bring the best out in everyone you speak with and about.

### THURSDAY

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Consider your relationships with those in authority over you (your parents, your employer, church leaders, teachers, officers, etc.). Is your attitude toward them one of honor? If not, ask God to help you change your attitude. Intentionally show honor to this person the next time you interact with them. Ask for forgiveness.

Consider those relationships where you have authority over others (children, employees, students, team or group members, etc.). What are some possible ways you have provoked anger in others? Ask for forgiveness where appropriate.

### FRIDAY

Where have you tried to get your way this week? Perhaps you fought with your spouse over an issue. Maybe you lied to a coworker to get the upper hand. Consider where you are compelled to take a stand on an issue in the church or your family. Where are you digging in your heels? Are you arguing that a critical issue is at stake or fighting for a sacred principle? Have you spent time discerning what is really important? Have you considered that you might not be giving in just because you want to get your way?