

# **Sunday School Lesson**

**January 1, 2023**

**Christ's Love for the Church**

**Ephesians 5:21—6:4**

**Instructor: Ralph Gordon**

# Questions for Us Today

January 1, 2023

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How do you view the responsibilities of a married couple, one spouse to another?

How do you think that children should regard and interact with their parents, and vice versa?

# Sunday School Lesson Objectives

January 1, 2023

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To understand God's directives for husbands, wives and children.

To understand how God's directives match the life and sacrifice of Christ Jesus.

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 1**

**January 1, 2023**

**1. Bibliography**

**2. Points of Information: Ephesus**

**3. Points of Information: Ephesians**

# **Sunday School Lesson Segments - 2**

**January 1, 2023**

**4. Lesson Context**

**5. Lesson Text**

**6. Remember These Things**

## Points of Information – Ephesus

Ancient Ephesus, then the capital city of the province of Asia, was a large commercial, political and religious center. It was the site of a huge temple for Artemis (Diana), the fertility goddess. This shrine was considered to be one of the Seven Wonders of the [ancient] World. This temple was a key site for tourism and therefore income for the city.

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The site of ancient Ephesus still exists today, in the nation of Turkey. It is an archeological trove that is a popular tourist destination.

# Points of Information – Ephesus

The Apostle Paul visited the ancient city of Ephesus at least a couple of times, during his second and third missionary journeys. He ultimately remained there for three years. He subsequently sent Timothy to Ephesus to succeed him.

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Acts 19:10; 20:17, 31; 1 Timothy 1:3.

Christ Jesus had words of compliment, reprimand and instruction for the church at Ephesus, in the first of His seven letters to churches.

Revelation 2:1-7.



## Points of Information – Ephesians

The Apostle Paul wrote this letter of encouragement and instruction while he was imprisoned (under house arrest) in Rome. This is one of the four letters known as the Captivity (Prison) Epistles in the New Testament. The others are Colossians, Philippians and Philemon.

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This letter was initially for the church in Ephesus and was then to be distributed and read to other churches in the region. Therefore, it is also called an encyclical or circular letter.



# Christ's Love for the Church

## Lesson Context - 1

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Earlier in his letter to the Ephesians, the Apostle Paul wrote about unity through Christ (especially regarding Jews and Gentiles) in the church.

# **Christ's Love for the Church**

## **Lesson Context - 2**

10

**Now, the Apostle Paul turned his attention to family matters.**

# **Christ's Love for the Church**

**Text – UMI Outline #1**

**Ephesians 5:21-24**

**Wives' Submission Should Reflect  
Christ's Authority Over the Church**

## Ephesians 5:21 (NLT)

**And further, submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.**

## Ephesians 5:22-23

**For wives, this means submit to your husbands as to the Lord.**

**For a husband is the head of his wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of His body, the church.**

## Ephesians 5:24

**As the church submits to Christ, so you wives should submit to your husbands in everything.**

# **Christ's Love for the Church**

**Text – UMI Outline #2**

15

**Ephesians 5:25-33**

**Husbands' Love for Their Wives Should  
Reflect Christ's Love for the Church**



## Ephesians 5:25-27

**For husbands, this means to love your wives, just as Christ loved the church. He gave up His life for her**

**to make her holy and clean, washed by the cleansing of God's Word.**

**He did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.**

## **Ephesians 5:28-30**

**In the same way, husbands ought to love their wives as they love their own bodies. For a man who loves his wife actually shows love for himself.**

**No one hates his own body but feeds and cares for it, just as Christ cares for the church.**

**And we are members of His body.**

## Ephesians 5:31-32

**As the Scriptures say, "A man leaves his father and mother and is joined to his wife, and the two are united into one."**

**This is a great mystery, but it is an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one.**

## Ephesians 5:33

**So again I say, each man must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.**

# **Christ's Love for the Church**

**Text – UMI Outline #3**

20

**Ephesians 6:1-4**

**Children Should be Obedient and Loved**

## Ephesians 6:1-3

**Children, obey your parents because you belong to the Lord, for this is the right thing to do.**

**“Honor your father and mother.” This is the first Commandment with a promise:**

**If you honor your father and mother, “things will go well for you, and you will have long life on the earth.”**

## Ephesians 6:4

**Fathers, do not provoke your children to anger by the way you treat them. Rather, bring them up with the discipline and instruction that comes from the Lord.**



**Remember these things:**

**Let us love one another as  
Christ loves us and His church.**

**Let us respect one another with  
Christlike love.**

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