

Ephesians 5:22-6:9 Questions

Read verses 5:22-24

1. As evidenced by the number of books regarding these verses, the verses are controversial. Why do you think that is? What may be some reasons people are uncomfortable with these verses?
2. When this passage was written, wives were generally younger, less educated, and less free (in terms of rights) than their husbands. Wives in 21st century America are essentially peers to men in regards to age, experience, education, and rights. How does this affect the application of the commands in these verses? What would it actually "look like" for a wife to follow these verses? What might these verses be misconstrued to mean?
3. What should a wife do if her husband wants her to do something sinful? It seems like either way, she would be disobeying scripture, right?

Read verses 25-33

4. Wives are also supposed to love their husbands. Based upon these verses, is a husband's love for his wife to be different than her love for him?
5. Verse 5:21 talks about mutual respect. Why is mutual respect, submission, and humility such a difficult principle to follow?

Read verses 6:1-9

6. What does it mean to honor your parents? Must you always honor them? Must you always obey them?
7. Some people are disgusted by the Bible because they believe verses like 5-8 condone slavery. How would you respond to these claims?
8. What principles from the instructions to slaves are applicable to all people?