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**Introduction**

Of all the places that we live out our faith, our closest relationships can be the most difficult. In his letter, Paul gives a couple of steps to make sure that those relationships are heading in the proper direction. Will we take his advice?

**Discussion Questions**

1. What kinds of things are patterns used for? Have you ever watched a video of how to do a repair and then been able to do it?
2. Read Ephesians 5:1-2 from the Message version. Why do you think Paul tells us to stick to the pattern of Jesus in our relationships? Where do you think you are following that pattern well and where is it a struggle?
3. Read Philippians 3:17 - What is the difficult part in being a model/example in your relationships? Who have you modeled your behavior after when it comes to family relationships or work relationships?
4. Read Ephesians 5:21 Why is it important that the verses that follow be connected to this one? How have you seen the word submit be used inappropriately? What does mutual submission look like in a close relationship?
5. Read Philippians 2:3-5 How would this passage compare to the submission passage in Ephesians 5?
6. In the rest of Ephesians 5-Paul gives instructions to Parent/Children and Masters/Slaves. What would have been surprising in Paul’s instruction at the time?
7. Why do we have to practice submission? How are some ways that you can practice that in your relationships this week?

**Shaping Your Mind –***What is clearest to me is the way Christ treats the church. And this provides a good picture of how each husband is to treat his wife, loving himself in loving her, and how each wife is to honor her husband. Eph. 5:30-33 MSG*

**Moving Forward – “**What doesn’t come naturally, we need to do intentionally.” – Jon Weece