

§ 2.4 • Exhortation to Embrace One's Subordinate Status in Various Social Relationships

PART 14

31 In awe of the Messiah, be subordinate to one another:

5:21

-- (b) --

32 Wives, be subordinate to your own husbands as you are to the Lord. ²For the husband is the head of his wife just as the Messiah is, in fact, head of the *ekklesia*. ³(He himself is the *soter* of his *soma*.) ⁴And just as the *ekklesia* is made subordinate to the Messiah, so also wives, in each case, are made subordinate to their husbands.

5:22–24

33 Husbands, love your wives—just as the Messiah, in fact, loved the *ekklesia* and gave himself up on its behalf so that he might sanctify it for himself, cleansing it of sin in the ritual cleansing bath of his word. ²This he did so that he might present the *ekklesia* to himself as brilliantly glorious—having no blemish or wrinkle or any such thing—indeed, so that it might be holy and without defect.

5:25–27

34 Just so, husbands too ought to love their own wives, just as they do their own bodies. ²The one who loves his own wife loves himself. ³Now no one ever hated his own flesh; rather, he nurtures and cares for it. ⁴This is, as a matter of fact, how the Messiah is toward his *ekklesia*, because **we** are members of **his** body. ⁵“For this reason a man shall forsake his father and his mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one ‘flesh.’” [Genesis 2:24] ⁶This is the great secret. (⁷I mean with reference to the Messiah and his *ekklesia*.) ⁸Nevertheless, you, too, individually, each of you, is to love his own wife in this way, even as himself. ⁹And his wife is to see to it that she respects her husband.

5:28–33

-- (c) --

35 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. ²“Honor your father and mother.” [Exodus 20:12] ³This is the first commandment with the promise—“so that it may be well with you, and that you might live long on the land.” [Deuteronomy 5:16] ⁴And fathers, do not provoke your children to anger. ⁵Rather, nurture them in the training and instruction of the Lord.

5:34–6:4

- 36** Slaves, be obedient to those who are your masters so far as this present physical existence is concerned. ²Do so with fear and trembling, by a single-minded commitment of your heart, as unto the Messiah. ³Not like service rendered when someone is watching, as people-pleasers, but as slaves of the Messiah, doing the will of God from one's true inner person. ⁴With good intent, perform the service of a slave as to the Lord, and not as to men—knowing that each person, if he does some good thing, he will receive it back from the Lord, whether slave or free. ⁵And masters, dispense with your threatening and do the same things with respect to them. ⁶You are to understand that the master of both them and you is in the divine realm, and there is no partiality with him.

6:5-9

§ 3 • Exhortation to Persevere in One's Belief

PART 15

- 37** To finish up—be firm in your commitment to the Lord, even with the strength of his force. ²Put on the full armor of God so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil. ³Because our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the compelling attractions to a religious system in this present darkness, against the evil invisible forces at work within the teachings regarding transcendent matters.

6:10-12

- 38** Therefore, take up the full armor of God so that you will be able to resist in the evil day and, having dealt successfully with everything, to stand firm. ²Stand firm, therefore, having girded your loins with the truth, and having put on the breast protector of righteousness, and, in an act of final preparation, having bound your feet with the gospel of peace. ³In all of these, take up the shield of belief, by which you will be able to extinguish all the burning arrows of the evil one. ⁴And accept the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the declared promise of God.

6:13-17

-- (b) --

- 39** In every prayer and petition, be praying in your spirit on every occasion even to this end: that you stay awake with complete readiness. ²And, pray this same thing in your petition for all the saints. ³And pray this same thing on my behalf. ⁴Furthermore, pray that a message might be given to me when I open my mouth to make known publicly the secret of the gospel—for which I am an ambassador in chains. ⁵Pray that I will speak of it freely, as I ought to speak.

6:18-20