Above All

"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD.

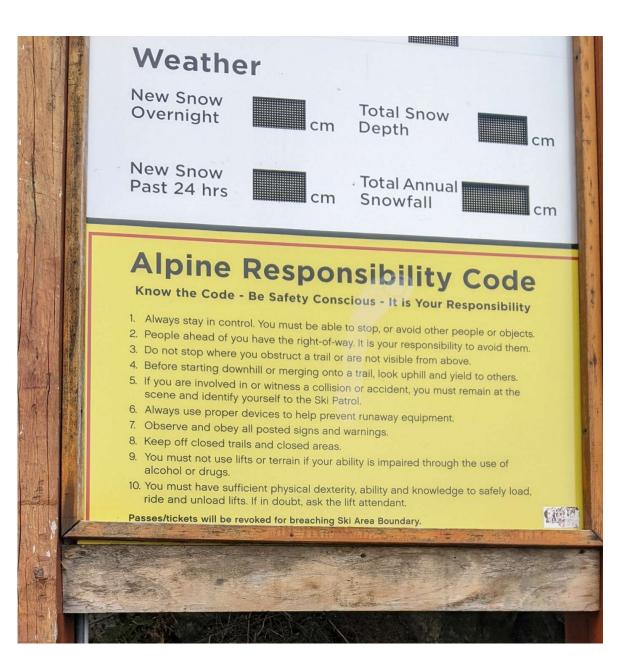
"As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts..."



Isaiah 55:8,9

Locating how we learn together

- Praying in the Spirit
- $\boldsymbol{\cdot}$ How the Bible came to us
- How it would have been understood at the time
- Hermeneutics (Observation, Interpretation, Correlation, Application)
- Apologetics (How we believe God to be trustworthy?)
- Homiletics (Sharing God's Word)



How would the verses before us this am understood at the time?

Background: Roman/Greek Household Code of Behaviour

Roman Household Code	New Life in Christ	Reference
Husband rules the wife, no obligation to love	Love as Christ loved the Church	5:25-30
Wives obey husband	Submit as to the Lord	5:22-24
Slaves serve	Serve wholeheartedly as to the Lord	6:5-8
Masters	Treat them in the same way	6:9
Children obey	In the Lord	6:1-3
Fathers: Pater Familias/Patria Potentas	Bring them up in the Lord	6:4

Above all

- Eph 1:4 For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight. In <u>love</u>
- Eph 1:15 For this reason, ever since I heard about your faith in the Lord Jesus and your <u>love</u> for all the saints,
- Eph 2:4 But because of his great <u>love</u> for us, God, who is rich in mercy,
- Eph 3:17 so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.
 And I pray that you, being rooted and established in <u>love</u>,
- Eph 3:18 may have power, together with all the saints, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the <u>love</u> of Christ,
- Eph 3:19 and to know this <u>love</u> that surpasses knowledge that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.
- Eph 4:2 Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in <u>love</u>.
- Eph 4:15 Instead, speaking the truth in <u>love</u>, we will in all things

You are now the People of God

- Be imitators of God, therefore, as dearly loved children and live a life of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. (Chapter 5:1)
- You once were darkness now light

Ch:Vs	Former Life Ephesus	New Life in Christ
2:3; 4:1	Gratifying cravings of evil desire	Live worthy of your calling
4:26	Bitterness, rage, anger, stealing	Do not give the devil s foothold
4:29	Unwholesome talk	Speak what builds up
5:3	Sexual immorality	Not even a hint
5:5	Greed, impurity, immorality, deception	Live as lights, fruits of Spirit
5:18	Foolishness, drunkenness	Be filled with the Spirit

You are now the People of God

- 18 ...but be filled with the Spirit,
- 19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your hearts to the Lord;
- 20 always giving thanks for all things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to our God and Father;
- 21 and subject yourselves to one another in the fear of Christ

Verse	Verbs of our responsibility	Declension	Greek
18	But be filled with the Spirit	present passive	πληροῦσθε
		imperative	(plērousthe)
19	speaking to one another	present active	λαλοῦντε
		participle	(lalountes)
19	making melody with your hearts	present active	ψάλλοντες
		participle	(psallontes)
20	aways giving thanks	present active	εὐχαριστοῦντες
		participle	(eucharistountes)
21	being subject to one another	present	ὑποτασσόμενοι
		middle/passive	(hypotassomenoi)
		participle	

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22	the wives () to your own		
	husbands; some greek versions/		
	translators add in the word "be		
	subject"		

You are now the People of God

• ...22 Wives, (subject yourselves) to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

• ...22 <u>Wives</u>, (subject yourselves) to your <u>own</u> husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

1. Addressed to <u>wives</u>

2. .. In the context of mutual submission
3. Emphasis on <u>own, and their</u>

4. As to the Lord

A few words on words

Love: $A_{\gamma} \dot{\alpha} \pi \eta$ ($A_{g} \dot{\alpha} p \bar{e}$) Divine love **Φιλία** (*Philía*) Brotherly Στοργή (*Storgē*) Familial **Epw** ζ (*Érōs*) **Passionate** Submission: to place or arrange under Head: Kephale (κεφαλή)

Scripture use of the word "head"

Paul <u>did</u> use Kephale (Eph 5)

He <u>did not</u> use possible alternate Greek words that would have specified authority structures

-ruler, governor, chief official, magistrate

-lord, master, owner

-absolute ruler (despot)

-<mark>leader, commander</mark>

-military commander, governor

Definition of "head" today

<u>Physical</u>: Top part of body, center of the mind

Prominent or preeminent part:

that part of anything that forms or is regarded as forming the top, summit, or upper end (headline, header)

the position or place of leadership, greatest authority, or honor

(synonyms:chairperson, president, superintendent, principal, boss, superior, commander)

<u>Metaphorical</u>: locating entities within relationships (needs context to interpret the particulars); head of a procession, head engineer, header, head waters

Kephale (κεφαλή)

<u>Physical</u>: Ex.-The son of Man has no place to lay His head (Matt 8:20);

<u>Prominent or preeminent part</u>: Ex.-The stone that the builders rejected has become the corner (kephale) stone (Matt 21:42);

<u>Metaphorical</u>: locating entities within relationships (needs context to interpret the particulars; not necessarily implying commanding authority);

A word or two on structure of relationships

<u>Entity</u>

GOD (Father, Son, Holy Spirit)

Image bearers (heaven), or fallen powers

HUMANS (Image bearers)

People of God

Rejecters of God

Features of Organizations

Types

Sovereignty

Dictator, Oligarchy, Democracy, Military

Hierarchy

Peer to peer

Dimensions

Description, Authority, Scope, Role & Responsibility, Duration...

• ...22 <u>Wives</u>, (subject yourselves) to your <u>own</u> husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself <u>being the Saviour of the</u> <u>body</u>. But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything.

5. Head

- -Reminder: Christ is head of both of you in His body
- -Husband is to be the head of the wife Not the Roman Code as ruler legal owner of wife as property

But a model of Christ as head of the

Church, as a Saviour of the Church In everything (in context), as Christ loved, nourished, cherished, and now to the husbands directly!

Above all is love

- 25-27 <u>Husbands</u>, love (agape) your wives, just as Christ also <u>loved</u> the church and gave Himself up for her, so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless.
- 1. Our responsibility under the Lord
- 2. Give ourselves up in love for her
- 3. Our role and work for Christ is to set her apart, leading in God's Word
- 4. Objective is holiness and readiness for presentation to the Lord
- 5. Foundational for the Church and to the world

Above all is love

 28 So <u>husbands</u> also ought to love (agape) their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves <u>himself;</u> for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also does the church, because we are parts of His body. For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Nevertheless, as for you individually, each husband is to love (agape) his own wife the same as himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

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7. As Christ for His Church Loving Nourishing Cherishing Leaving
8. As for you as one flesh Love her the same as yourself, respect him, both as in Christ

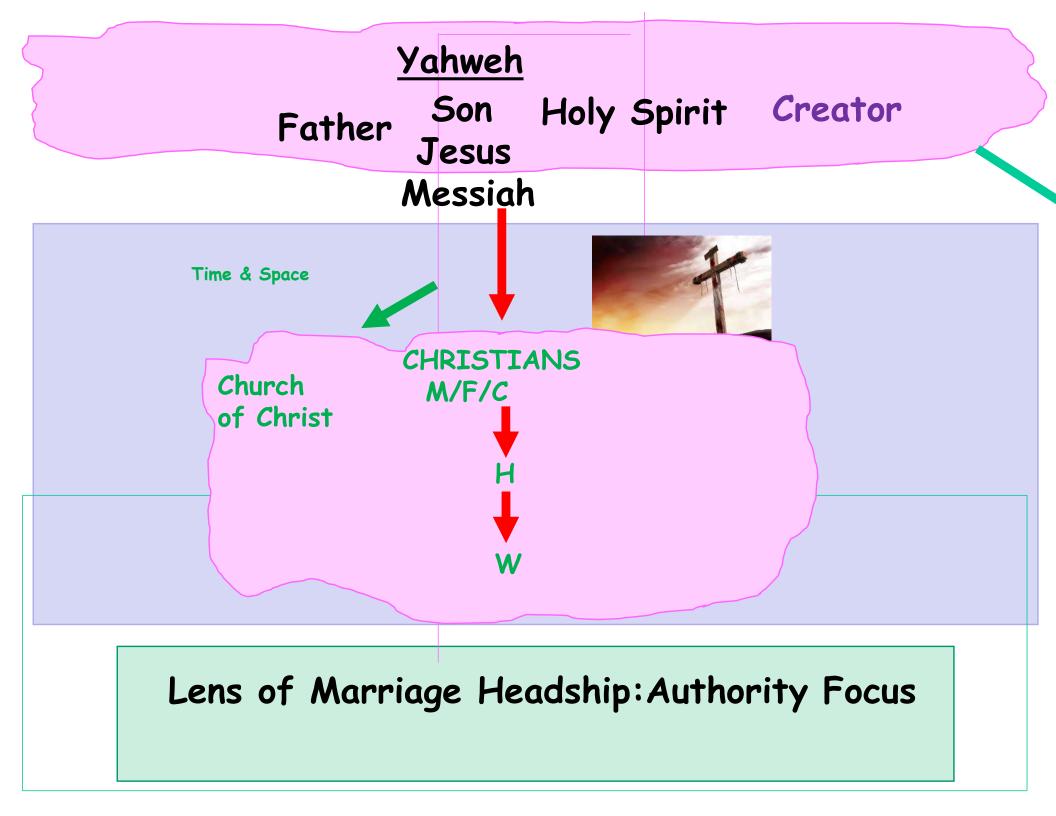
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Correlation Interpretation Lenses to Consider

- OT: Creation (helpmate, one flesh)
- OT: Covenant union (permanent, faithfulness, devotion, metaphor of God and His people..)
- NT: Jesus, marriage teaching, and how He worked with women & men
- NT: interpretation of when "brothers, man, men, sons, everyone..." are inclusive or particular

Interpretation & Correlation Lenses to Include

- NT (Paul & Peter): Observe the difference between the general (all in Christ) to the specific in the immediate context (men/women; husbands/wives)
 - One another verses (Love one another)
 - Fruit of the Spirit (love, joy, peace..)
 - Spiritual gifts to every body member (1 Cor 12)
 - All are one in Christ (Gal 3:26-29)
 - Other relevant scriptures on male/female church guidance



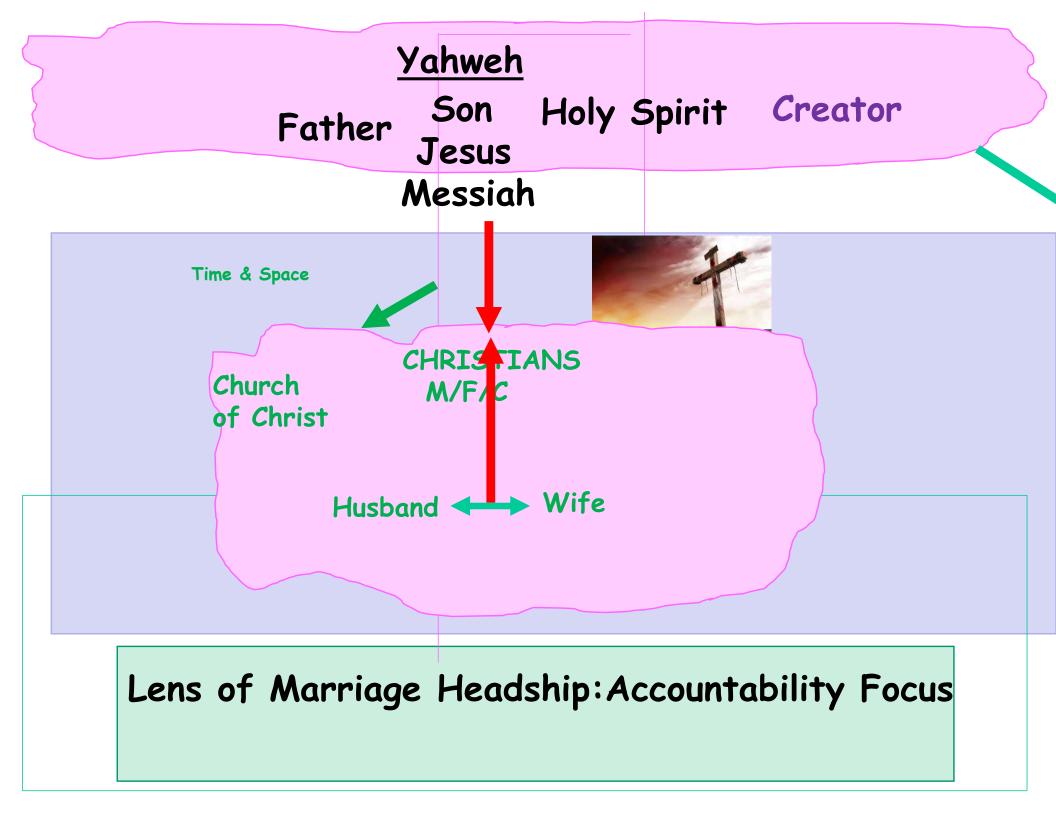


Image bearers for Christ

- Every Christian
 - Love, unity, in the Spirit (fruit, calling, gifts), accountability to God
- Man and woman
 - Common purpose in Christ
 - Different by Creation
 - Equality before God

- Husbands and wives
 - Covenant relationship in Christ, exclusive with behaviour honoring one another & God
 - Demonstrators of the unity and bond between Jesus and His people
 - Accountable for love, faithfulness, family growth in Christ
 - H: Accountability for his calling with loving spiritual leadership as head in the family, with provision and protection, and covenant keeping behaviours, both in and outside the home
 - W:Complementary accountability for her calling, with loving respect and complementary support for husband and family, with covenant keeping behaviours both in and outside the home
- Living in a fallen world, walking the sanctification journey together