

Ephesians 5:21-33 & 6:1-4

International Bible Lesson Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, in this competitive world it is difficult to be subject to one another, for too often when it does not even matter, we want to be better than someone else. Especially in the Church and in our Christian families, we pray that the Holy Spirit will help us be subject to or look for ways to serve one another better. Help us avoid the sin of pretending that we are better than other Christians or other family members. Help us avoid thinking of others from the perspective of how they can serve us rather than seeing others as those You have created in Your image for us to love as we love ourselves. Please help us live subject to one another out of reverence for Christ. Jesus is the One who told us to love our neighbors as ourselves and Jesus is the One who told us to love one another as He has loved us. Please help us be sensitive to the leading of the Holy Spirit and please inspire us to pray for the power of the Holy Spirit so we can do Your will and help others as Jesus would have us behave—with grace and humility. Lord Jesus, we live in a time and place where many do not understand what it means for a husband and wife to be subject to one another out of love for You and each other. Help us learn how to support one another, to pray for one another, and to be willing to do what is best for one another. Please help all Christian husbands to love their wives as You love the Church and gave Your life sacrificially for her. Please help wives to avoid a spirit of contention and be willing to submit to the decisions of their husbands when they are not asked to do anything immoral, illegal, or contrary to Your teachings and the Bible. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Please Note: I first learned about “Praying Through the Bible” from Edith Schaeffer, the wife of Francis Schaeffer. You might like to close your class with the above prayer as a way of beginning to teach your class how they too can pray through the Bible. First, you might like to teach your class how to pray through the *International Bible Lessons* each week. [Perhaps some of them would learn how to pray through portions of the Bible during their daily Bible reading and quiet time.] Second, a week in advance, perhaps some of your students would like to write their own “Prayer Through the Bible” using the *International Bible Lesson* scripture text and read their prayer at the close of class. Third, eventually, your students will be able to pray through the Bible without needing to write their prayer in advance before they pray at the end of class. If you would like to learn more about prayer from Edith Schaeffer, read [*How God Teaches Us to Pray: Lessons from the Lives of Francis and Edith Schaeffer*](#), Kindle Edition, by L.G. Parkhurst, Jr.

International Bible Lesson Prayers are available at InternationalBibleLessons.org
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