

Love, Light, and Wisdom in Action

[Eph 5:22-33 ESV] 22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. 25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

I. Intro

- A. What does it look like to submit to God?
- B. What does it look like to submit to others?
- C. We should walk in Love, Light, Wisdom, and proper relationship
 1. This insures Christ and His will is the center
 2. This allows us to come under His leadership and find His blessing
 3. This challenges us to be in order with Christ
- D. Remember Submit explanation:
 1. Submit: yield to proper order
 2. Submit in this context: respond appropriately to Christ's order
 3. Submitting to one another:
 - a) In the church: never demand your own way, but yield to the order of Christ
 - b) In the home: never demand your own way, but yield to the order of Christ
 4. Submission is a gentle word, and in this passage we will see the grace of Christ
- E. Husbands and Wives are to submit to God, and yield their own will to God.
- F. Bold Statement:
 1. Men and women are different
 2. We are different by God's design.
 3. Physically and emotionally different
- G. This text is an illustration and a truth:
 1. The Christian home is supposed to be an illustration of Christ and the Church
 2. We see the clear explanation of Christ's love for us, His Church, in this passage, as well as our clear response that love.
- H. As we yield to Christ, we yield to His plan for Godly marriage.
- I. Complementarianism: This truth is seen in the Garden of Eden, and throughout scripture:
 1. Men and women compliment each other in every way
 2. We cannot do life without one another
 3. Men and Women are equal in value, and worth, but different in roles
 4. All of humanity is created in the image of God, we are expected to keep and honor that.
 5. Husbands are told specifically to love their wives as Christ loved the church (Ephesians 5:25)
 6. Wives are told specifically to respect their husbands as the church does Christ (Ephesians 5:33).
- J. Side note:
 1. This truth is under attack today in ways that I never dreamed
 2. God created us male and female, according to His plan and wisdom

3. We should serve and respond in his plan and wisdom.
4. The world may never understand this truth, but that does not change the truth.

II. Text

- A. Recap: You cannot separate these verses from rest of Ephesians 5
- B. Verses 22-24
 1. Instruction to wives regarding response to Christ and her own husband
 2. This is an example of our response to Christ regarding the church.
- C. Verses 25-27
 1. Instruction to Husbands regarding response to Christ and his own wife
 2. Christ is the point of this passage, as we see the explanation unfold.
 3. Christ loves the church and died for the church, gave the ultimate example of sacrificial love to the church.
- D. Verses 28-32
 1. The blending of this illustration back into the physical walk of marriage
 2. Make no mistake: the marriage relationship between a husband and wife is an example of the church and Christ.
- E. Verse 33
 1. Most basic of instructions:
 2. A husband is to show his wife the love of Christ
 3. A wives is to show her husbands respect just as the church responds to Christ.

III. Point

- A. As to the Lord
 1. Submission to authority is challenging for many of us, but that is because:
 - a) We misunderstand authority
 - b) We have few good examples of authority
 - c) We are not sure we want to yield.
 2. Men and Women are called to submit to God's plan and order
 - a) This in no way devalues either gender.
 - b) This is proper for demonstration of the relationship with the church.
 3. As you serve your spouse, you do so "as to the Lord."
 4. This, by reality of the definition, is worship!
 - a) Declare what you believe about God by the way you live your life
 - b) Respond to God by the way you love and respect others.
- B. As Christ Loved the Church
 1. As you serve your spouse, you serve as Christ loved the church.
 2. Christ's example of submission to the father, and sacrifice on the cross, is an example for each of us to live by:
 - a) [Luk 22:39-46 ESV] 39 And he came out and went, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives, and the disciples followed him. 40 And when he came to the place, he said to them, "Pray that you may not enter into temptation." 41 And he withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and knelt down and prayed, 42 saying, "Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me. Nevertheless, not my will, but yours, be done." 43 And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him. 44 And being in agony he prayed more earnestly; and his sweat became like great drops of blood falling down to the ground. 45 And when he rose from prayer, he came to the disciples and found them sleeping for sorrow, 46 and he said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Rise and pray that you may not enter into temptation."
 - b) As he was prepared to do what was necessary, He also was an example of yielding to the work of the father.
 - c) As Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her!
 - (1) This is our example as Godly men
 - (2) Love your wife in this way, as Christ loved the church!
- C. Love and Respect

1. Dr. Emerson Eggerichs book Love and Respect outline this truth
 - a) In it, he articulates the connection in relationship necessary for healthy Christian marriage.
 - b) He identifies something called the crazy cycle...
 - (1) Without love...She reacts
 - (2) Without respect...He reacts
 - (3) This is not a complete explanation, but you get the idea.
2. Regarding this truth:
 - a) We are called to LOVE AND RESPECT
 - b) Men run on Respect, Women on Love: core needs from who we are as people created by God
 - c) Both Love and Respect are powerful to produce change
3. When we get the Love/Respect relationship out of balance, we find ourselves in a vicious cycle of heartbreak.
4. The challenge: get off the merry-go-round
5. We should cherish our spouse, serve our spouse, and be an example of Christ and the Church
6. One of the greatest ways to show genuine Love is through genuine respect.
 - a) As to the Lord
 - b) As Christ loved the church

IV. Close