
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 6)

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

²⁸ So husbands ought to love their own 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 the Lord *does* the church. ³⁰ For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ³¹ "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." ³² This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

³³ Nevertheless let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife *see* that she respects *her* husband.

6 Preliminary Observations

1. *My Marriage Role Is Based Upon My Gender (not chosen or interchangeable)*
2. *My Marriage Role Is Commanded (not an option or a feeling)*
3. *My Marriage Role Is Without Conditions (no "when" or "unless" he/she does this)*
4. *My Marriage Role Focuses on My Actions Toward My Spouse*
5. *My Marriage Role Assumes an Imperfect Spouse (submit/love anyway)*
6. *My Marriage Role Is Built Upon a Spiritual Relationship (broadcast by example)*

4 Principles for the Wife

1. *Respond in Your Role (each role has different "submission" responsibilities)*
2. *Allow God's Plan to Work (one cannot [easily] lead someone who is unwilling to follow)*
3. *WHAT: Wives Are to Submit to Their Own Husbands (yielding to my God-assigned auth)*
4. *HOW: Wives Are to Submit as to the Lord*
 - *Measure: As to the Lord / As the church is subject to Christ*
 - *Method (v. 33): "The wife ... to respect [lit. fear] her husband." (position not person)*

First Observations for the Husbands

1. *God Begins with Wives but Has Much More to Say to Husbands (40 vs 112 words)*
2. *God Requires Wives Only to Submit, but Husbands to Sacrifice*
3. *God Gives Wives One Command, but Husbands Many Tasks*
 - *LOVE – give yourself for – sanctify – cleanse – nourish – cherish your wife*
4. *God's Measurement to Husbands Seems to Be More Strict*
 - *Wives "as to the Lord" vs husbands "just as Christ loved the Church."*

More Observations for the Husbands

1. *If "love" must be commanded, it does not happen naturally.*
2. *The goals of sanctify and cleanse assume imperfection.*
3. *We must enter marriage with Biblical expectations.*
4. *A husband is to focus on the spiritual needs of his wife.*
5. *A husband is to proactively provide spiritual leadership*

A Husband Is to Love His Wife (25)

Overview:

- **Command – Present action "be loving" your wife**
- **Comparison – Perfect example "as Christ loved the church"**
- **Cost – Precious price "and gave Himself"**
- **Covered – Preferred object "for her"**

We're Commanded to Love Multiple Times:

1. **Love Our Enemies** (Matt 5:44, Luke 6:27, 6:35)

Matt 5:44 "But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you,

2. **Love One Another** (John 13:34, 15:12,17, 1 Pet 2:17)

John 13:34 "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another.

3. **Husbands: Love Your Wives** (Eph 5:25, Col 3:19)

Col 3:19 Husbands, love your wives and do not be bitter toward them.

- **Double Responsibility**
- **Double Effort**
- **Double Focus**

3 "Befores" of Love – *Before You Can Love, You Must Have:*

1. **The Right Order**

Luke 14:26 If anyone comes to Me and does not hate his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, yes, and his own life also, he cannot be My disciple.

2. **The Right Purpose**

1 Cor 13:1-3 Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become sounding brass or a clanging cymbal. And though I have [the gift of] prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing. And though I bestow all my goods to feed [the poor], and though I give my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.

3. **The Right Target**

1 John 2:15 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.