

---

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

---

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

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, <sup>26</sup> that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, <sup>27</sup> 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.

<sup>28</sup> So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. <sup>29</sup> For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord *does* the church. <sup>30</sup> For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. <sup>31</sup> "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." <sup>32</sup> This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

<sup>33</sup> 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)*
2. *Love One Another (John 13:34, 15:12,17, 1 Pet 2:17)*
3. *Husbands: Love Your Wives (Eph 5:25, Col 3:19)*
  - *Double Responsibility | Double Effort | Double Focus*

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

1. *The Right Order (Luke 14:26 – Before all other relationships)*
2. *The Right Purpose (1 Cor 13:1-3 – Actions with the right motives)*
3. *The Right Target (1 John 2:15 – Our wife cannot be displaced by other things)*

---

## How a Husband Is to Love His Wife (25)

(or, How Did Christ Love the Church?)

I am to love my wife...

### 1. At the \_\_\_\_\_ of My own...:

- \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Pet 2:21-24)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (John 13:1; Gal 2:20; Eph 5:2)

### 2. With a \_\_\_\_\_ on what my wife \_\_\_\_\_:

- **(As opposed to what the Church \_\_\_\_\_ ...)**
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Gen 2:16-17; Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 4:11-16)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Eph 5:26)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (Acts 9:4)
- \_\_\_\_\_ (1 John 3:16-17)
- \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ (Titus 3:5; Heb 4:16)

### 3. With an attitude of \_\_\_\_\_ (Phil 2:1-8):

- **Esteem her \_\_\_\_\_ than yourself**
- **Consider her \_\_\_\_\_ as well as your own**
- **Be willing to shed your own \_\_\_\_\_ (or pursuit of)**
- **Count her as worth \_\_\_\_\_ for, & worth \_\_\_\_\_ for**

### 4. With loving \_\_\_\_\_ (1 Cor 13:4-7):

- **What love \_\_\_\_\_ like & \_\_\_\_\_ like**