
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 2)

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***

- Roles are not chosen by us
- Roles are not interchangeable

2. ***My Marriage Role Is Commanded***

- My responsibility is not an option
- My responsibility is not a feeling

3. ***My Marriage Role Is Without Conditions***

- "When" is missing (not until he/she does this)
- "Unless" is missing (up until he/she does this)

4. ***My Marriage Role Focuses on My Actions Toward My Spouse***

- I am to be focused on what I am to be doing

5. ***My Marriage Role Assumes an Imperfect Spouse***

- Wife, your husband needs you to submit anyway
- Husband, your wife needs unconditional love anyway

6. ***My Marriage Role Is Built Upon a Spiritual Relationship***

- My role is based upon Christ & the Church
- My role is to broadcast the good news by example

1. **Respond in Your Role**

Verse 21 – Submitting or V.22 Submit!

Different roles require different forms of submission

Doing things that we don't find natural, easy, or logical

- Wives submit to husbands
- Husbands love your wives
- Children obey your parents
- Fathers nurture your children with training & admonition
- Servants obey your masters
- Masters do the same to your Master

2. **Allow God's Plan to Work**

- Isn't the husband identified as the head?
- Why is the wife commanded first? (cp. 6:1 & 4; 6:5 & 9)
- One cannot lead someone who is unwilling to follow
- Marriage is the first pattern of human submission to authority

3. **WHAT: Wives Are to Submit to Their Own Husbands**

- Yielding to the one God has placed over you (Rom 13:1ff)
- Yielding to a direction different than you would go
- Assumes two views of what is right
- Requires following your husband's decisions & directions
- Allows suggesting, but not demanding (who is leading whom?)

4. **HOW: Wives Are to Submit as to the Lord**

- **Measure: As to the Lord / As the church is subject to Christ**
 - Changes the entire approach & attitude of a wife
 - Changes the entire thought process of disagreement
 - Changes what is at stake (Titus 2:5)
 - NOT CONFUSING: As the church is to Christ...
 - NOT NARROWLY DEFINED: ...in everything. (1 Pet 3:1ff)
 - Not conditional or circumstantial but positional (v. 33)
- **Method (v. 33): "The wife ... to respect her husband."**
 - Lit. "to fear" her husband.
 - Fear = Proper response to God-placed authority
 - Does not justify sin or stupidity. It properly recognizes responsibility & accountability for it. The man will answer to God.
 - Does not ignore the wisdom or intelligence of the wife, but acknowledges the appointment of the man to lead. The issue is not the person (how smart either is), but the position (who God put to be responsible Gen 2).