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

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
Wives → 40 words vs. Husbands → 112 words (in Greek)
2. God Requires Wives Only to Submit, but Husbands to Sacrifice
3. God Gives Wives One Command, but Husbands Many Tasks
 - *LOVE your wife*
 - *Give yourself for your wife*
 - *Sanctify your wife*
 - *Cleanse your wife*
 - *Nourish your wife*
 - *Cherish your wife*
4. God's Measurement to Husbands Seems to Be More Strict
 - *Wives are to submit "as to the Lord."*
 - *Husbands are to love "just as Christ loved the Church."*

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More Observations for the Husbands

1. **If "love" must be commanded, it does not happen naturally.**
 - a. This must be taught to boys and men.
 - b. This must be learned by boys and men.
 - c. This must be obeyed by men.
2. **The goals of sanctify and cleanse assume imperfection.**
 - a. To sanctify is to set apart or to make holy
 - b. To sanctify can thus begin with the unholy
 - c. To cleanse is to being with the unclean
3. **We must enter marriage with Biblical expectations.**

HUSBANDS:

 - a. I understand that my wife is not perfect.
 - b. I accept her with her imperfections.
 - c. My job is to help her, not criticize her.

WIVES:

 - a. I acknowledge my need of sanctification and cleansing.
 - b. I accept God's provision to grow me spiritually.
 - c. I allow my husband to help me to grow spiritually.
 - A wife must enter marriage with the understanding of her need and a willingness to enter this process
 - Willingness to allow her husband to lead & to grow her spiritually
4. **A husband is to focus on the spiritual needs of his wife.**
 - a. My focus is not on me but on my wife
 - b. My focus is not what I need, but what she needs
 - c. My wife's spiritual maturity is my God-given assignment
 - d. Love is not ignoring faults – it's acknowledging them and addressing them
5. **A husband is to proactively provide spiritual leadership**
 - a. Requires purpose
 - b. Requires preparation
 - c. Requires a plan
 - d. Requires an ongoing process
 - e. Requires progress – lead from where you are!