
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)*
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 expense of My own...:

- *Comfort & Convenience (1 Pet 2:21-24)*
- *Life (John 13:1; Gal 2:20; Eph 5:2)*

2. With a focus on what my wife needs:

- *(As opposed to what the Church wanted...)*
- *Leadership (Gen 2:16-17; Eph 1:22; 4:15; 5:23)*
- *Instruction (Eph 4:11-16)*
- *Sanctification (Eph 5:26)*
- *Protection (Acts 9:4)*
- *Provision (1 John 3:16-17)*
- *Mercy & Grace (Titus 3:5; Heb 4:16)*

3. With an attitude of humility (Phil 2:1-8):

- *Esteem her higher than yourself*
- *Consider her needs as well as your own*
- *Be willing to shed your own reputation (or pursuit of one)*
- *Count her as worth living for, and worth dying for*

4. With loving behavior (1 Cor 13:4-7):

- *What love looks like and sounds like*