
God Explains Marriage – Ephesians 5:22-33 (Part 10)

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 or based upon how I feel
3. **My Marriage Role Is Without Conditions**
 - MISSING: "When" (not until he/she does this) | "Unless" (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

4 Principles for the Wife

1. **Respond in Your Role** (each role has different "submission" responsibilities)
 - Doing things that we don't find natural, easy, or logical
2. **Allow God's Plan to Work** (one cannot [easily] lead someone who is unwilling to follow)
 - Why is the wife commanded first? (cp. 6:1 & 4; 6:5 & 9)
3. **WHAT: Wives Are to Submit to Their Own Husbands** (yielding to my God-assigned auth)
 - Yielding to a direction different than you would go - Assumes 2 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, the entire thought process of disagreement (not ideas), and what is at stake (Titus 2:5)
Not Confusing "As" | Not Narrowly Defined: "in everything" (1 Pet 3:1ff)
Not conditional or circumstantial but positional (v. 33)
 - **Method** (v. 33): "The wife ... to respect [lit. fear] her husband." (position not person)
Fear = Proper response to God-placed authority
Doesn't justify sin/stupidity, but properly recognizes responsibility & accountability for it.
Does not ignore wisdom/intelligence of the wife but acknowledges God's assignment of the man to lead. The issue is not the person but the position (Gen 2).

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 | Give yourself for | Sanctify | Cleanse | Nourish | Cherish
4. **God's Measurement to Husbands Seems to Be More Strict**
 - Wives submit "as to the Lord." | Husbands love "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)

- Continually, sacrificially be loving your wife as Christ loved the church
- We're Commanded to Love Multiple Times: Enemies/One Another/Wives
- 3 "Befores" of Love: Right Order (Lu 14:26), Purpose (1 Cor 13:1-3), & Target (1 John 2:15)

HOW a Husband Is to Love His Wife (25) (How Did Christ Love the Church?)

1. I am to love my wife at the expense of my own comfort & convenience, & my life
2. I am to love my wife with a focus on what she needs (may not = what she / church wants)
Leadership – Instruction – Sanctification – Protection – Provision – Mercy & Grace
3. With an attitude of humility (Phil 2:1-8) – 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

WHY a Husband Is to Love His Wife (26)

1. The Purpose – Sanctification (Positional vs. Practical)
2. The Process – Cleansing (2 Cor 7:1; James 4:8)
3. The Procedure – Washing of Water (Ps 119:9; Heb 10:22; John 15:3; 17:17; 1 John 1:6-10)
4. The Prompting – In a Word (Titus 2:11-14; Deut 6:6-7; 2 Cor 3:18)
It is the active application of the Word in life's circumstances

The GOAL of a Husband's Love for His Wife (27)

God's goal for us (& each husband's goal for his wife) is to purify & sanctify presently, continually, progressively, & fully.

Love Your Wife Like Your Own Body (28-29)

1. The Indebted Action to Your Wife ("So husbands ought to love their own wives...")
We have an ongoing obligation to be loving, caring, nourishing our wives as our own bodies
2. The Logical Reason to Love Your Wife - "he who loves his wife loves himself"
She is part of you | Caring for her is caring for you | Benefitting her is benefitting you
3. The Truthful Reality of How We Care for Our Own Bodies ("but nourishes & cherishes it")
4. The Spiritual Example of Such Care ("just as the Lord does the church")

Marriage, and the Mystery of Christ and the Church (29-32)

Our marriages reflect the connection that Christ has to the Church and the Church has to Christ, and thus our marriages are to picture that spiritual relationship in our commitment & responses.

Summary Statement (33) - ³³ Nevertheless

1. let each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and
2. let the wife see that she respects (fears) her husband.