

Ephesians 5:25–31

- 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.”

The Christian Home *Ephesians 5:22-33*

INTRO:

Families are the building blocks of society. Whatever the nation’s families are, the society becomes. Yet, we live in a day in which the family unit is under assault like never before in history. The attack comes from several fronts

The Apostle Paul’s teaching about marriage flows directly from the command in **Ephesians 5:18-21**. Being filled with the spirit causes us **“to submit to one another in the fear of God.”** We submit to one another because our submission to Christ. Our being filled with the Spirit of God shows itself in our homes.

I. To The Wives (v. 22-24)

II. To The Husbands (v. 25-31)

III. The Motive (v. 32, 33)

I. To the Wives (v. 22-24)

Ephesians 5:22–24 *“Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is*

the Savior of the body. Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything.”

A. As Paul addresses the important issue of husband and wife relationships, he does so in the context of the statement in **verse 21**. In this verse we meet a very important participle that governs this whole text. It is the verb, submit. The Greek word translated, “submit,” is a military term that means “*to array oneself under*” or “*to subject oneself.*” When we come to **verse 22** we find the first expression of this mutual submission. Let me translate this verse literally for you. ***“The wives to their own husbands as to the Lord.”***

B. There are two observations we need to make here. First, this is only side one of a two-sided coin. Paul did explain in greater detail how the man exercises his submission in **v.25-31**, so please withhold judgment until we see the whole picture here. Second, the submission in this verse is not really to your husband. It is a submission to your husband as a means of obeying the Lord Jesus. It is the personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ that the giver of the submission or love possesses.

C. Christian wife submits because she recognizes God’s order and the picture that God is painting in marriage.

v.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.”***

Even in this picture, Paul is already working on the husbands. Just like Christ is the head of the church so the husband is the head of the wife. Paul could have stopped there and we men would have cheered. However, he added a phrase to remind us of that the great expression of Christ’s headship is that He gave Himself for the church, His bride. He is the Savior of the body! Our headship must be a sacrificial headship. We pour ourselves out for the wife that God gave us.

D. Men, while she is to submit, we are responsible to lead, provide, and protect our wives. We are not to abuse, misuse, or mistreat her. Christ would never do that to us. We must never do that to our wives. We need to see our wives as our best counselors and friends. Her best interest and needs must always be the focus of our attention. Remember, we will answer to the Lord for His giving us headship in the home.

II. To The Husbands (v. 25-31)

Ephesians 5:25–31 ***“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 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. So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own***

bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

A. After a brief command to the wives, Paul now rolls up his sleeves and begins to go to work on us husbands. Again, the statement of **verse 21** governs this text.

“Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of Christ. . . the husbands love your wives. . .”

How are we to act toward our wives so that we may obey our Savior and submit ourselves to our wives?

1. **(Verse 25)** We must love our wives. This is an ongoing command. We are to constantly, actively love our wives. What is the standard against which our loving our wives be measured? Paul does not let us wonder. We are to love our wives ***“Just as”*** Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it.

2. This all puts a different spin on the idea of submission doesn't it? I am to always actively love my wife to the point of being willing to lay down my life on her behalf. There can be no *“take my wife and let me be,”* in a truly Christian marriage.

3. Loving our wives means putting her needs, desires, and wants before our own. We must desire only what is best for her even when it costs us something.

B. Because we men can be thick headed, Paul drew some pictures to help us understand what this means. He does this by showing us what Jesus does for us.

vs.26-27 “That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 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.”

1. Why did Jesus give Himself for us? He did it, in order that, he might make us uniquely His (sanctifying us). Husband, do you pour yourself out for your wife so that she is uniquely yours? Do you make her understand that there is no other woman in your life beside her?

2. Jesus cleanses us from sin and keeps us clean through the constant washing of the word of God in our lives. This is our single greatest need. So, the Lord Jesus provides for that need in our lives. Husbands, do you ever ask yourself, *“What is my wife's greatest need?” ‘How can I meet that need?’”*

3. Our Lord did all of this in order that He might help the church become all that it was created to be. We were designed to be His bride. In like manner, we husbands must give ourselves to making our wives all that God created them to be.

v.27 *“In order 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.”*

C. Paul wrote:

vs.28-31 *“So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. ‘For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.’”*

III. The Motive (v. 32, 33)

A. There is one last thought that we must see here. The reason it is so important that wives submit to their own husbands and husbands submit themselves to their wives by loving them is not just because it will make us deliriously happy. It is because it demonstrates to the world the love that Christ has for His church.

B. Our behavior is how the world sees the reality of **1 John 4:10**.

“In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.”

Therefore, let us commit ourselves to carrying out the truth of **verse 33** in our lives.

We can't really do this can we? Do you realize that Paul wrote this to husbands and wives who were in arranged marriages? Someone else chose their mates. Still, God expected them to love and honor one another. Don't you think we can do the same? I know that many of you are actively doing it.