

SERMON OUTLINE

In Ephesians 5:22-24 & 33b Paul presents 6 characteristics of wives' submission to their husbands.

- I. Wives are to submit themselves to their own husband (v. 22a).
- II. Wives are to submit themselves as to the Lord (v. 22b).
- III. Wives are to submit themselves because their husband is their head as Christ is the head of the church (v. 23).
- IV. Wives are to submit themselves as the church submits to Christ (v. 24a).
- V. Wives are to submit themselves in everything (v. 24b).
- VI. Wives are to submit themselves respectfully (v. 33b).

BIBLE DISCUSSION GROUP STUDY QUESTIONS

In preparation for Sunday, August 6, 2017

Passage: Ephesians 5:22-33

Memory Passage: Ephesians 5:22-27 (Review 1:1-5:21)

DAY 1 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** This week we will focus on vs. 22-24, 33b and next week we will focus on vs. 25-33a.
- (b) The Greek word behind “submit” originally meant “to arrange or rank under,” and here is found (most likely) in the middle active voice. It carries the meaning of voluntary submission, so a more vivid translation might be “submit yourselves.”
- (c) In what manner are wives to submit to their husbands (v. 22)?
- (d) Does this submission include other husbands? All men? How do you know?
- (e) For what reason must a wife voluntarily submit to her husband (vs. 22-23)?

DAY 2 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33, 1 Cor. 11:3, Col. 1:18, & Eph. 1:22-23.** Explain what you learn in these passages about Christ’s role in relation to the church, and the church’s role in relation to Christ.
- (b) In what ways is the church submitted to Christ? How are these instructive for understanding a wife’s submission (v. 24)?
- (c) What is the husband’s role in his wife’s submission? What requirements must be met before a wife is required to submit?
- (d) What does submission have to do with authority?

DAY 3 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33 & Gen. 3:16 (cf. Gen 4:7).** What affect does the fall have on a woman’s submission to her husband?
- (b) What affect does the fall have on a man’s leading of his wife?
- (c) Is v. 23 saying that husbands are saviors of their wives? Explain why or why not.
- (d) What does submission have to do with equality? Does submission mean less equal? Less important? Explain your answer.

DAY 4 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33, Col. 3:18, & 1 Pet. 3:1-2.** What else do you learn about submission from Colossians & 1 Peter?
- (b) Does a wife’s submission mean she gives up her desires, her will, her ability to think for herself? Explain your answer.
- (c) How does a wife’s submission to her husband help him obey the commands to love his wife as Christ loved the church?
- (d) What is the extent of a wife’s submission to her husband (v. 24)? Are there any exceptions? What about commanding her to sin? Beating her and requiring her to keep silent? What if he is lost?
- (e) How does the profound mystery of marriage referring “to Christ and the church” affect your understanding of divorce (Mark 10:1-12)? How does it affect your understanding of submitting to your husband, or if you are the husband, having a wife who does not submit to your headship?

DAY 5 – ASK FOR INSIGHT

READ THE PASSAGE

- (a) **Read Eph. 5:22-33.** What is the difference between submission and respecting (v. 33)? Why are both commanded?
- (b) For the wife: what are the greatest challenges you face in submitting to your husband? How does this passage equip and encourage you to be a better submitter?
- (c) For the husband: How can you help equip and encourage your wife in her God-given role of submission?
- (d) Start a conversation with your spouse about your answers in (b) & (c). Ask forgiveness where necessary, and together set out a course for taking positive action in the area of conforming your marriage to this passage of Scripture.

DATE: August 6, 2017

PASSAGE: Ephesians 5:22-33

Wives & Husbands—Christ & the Church Part I