

Ephesians 5:21-33 (October 30, 2022)
#2 Men & Women

NOTE: This is the second of four lessons focusing on men & women. Two lessons are based on other Scripture passages, but all linked to the 1 Corinthians study.

OPENING QUESTION:

SERMON DISCUSSION: How were you impacted by the sermon? What new thoughts or lessons did you discover? In what ways did you find yourself challenged and/or encouraged?

BIBLE PASSAGE STUDY QUESTIONS: READ Ephesians 5:21-33

1. Paul exhorts believers to submit “to one another out of reverence for Christ” **BEFORE** giving instructions to wives and husbands. Discuss how Ephesians 4:1-6 and Philippians 2:2-4 give clarity to what this should look like in daily life.

2. In Ephesians 5:22-24, 33 Paul is not addressing women in general, but wives regarding their own husbands (not to other husbands). Why might it be challenging for a wife to submit to her husband?

3. Ponder how Christ’s submission in Mark 14:36 and John 6:38 should bring encouragement to wives? How might a wife’s attitude be impacted upon the realization that when she willingly submits to her husband, she is simultaneously submitting to the Lord?

4. Paul's instructions for husbands is three times longer than those to wives. He urges husbands to love their wives as Christ loved the church (not to rule over or domineer them). How does this translate into the responsibilities a husband has to his wife? What kind of love is he to have for her? Discuss the challenges to fulfill these responsibilities and love.

5. "Both commands [wives submit to your husbands and husbands love your wives] are Christologically grounded and require giving oneself to the other person. In the final analysis, submission and agape love are synonymous."

(NIV Application Commentary-Ephesians p. 296 by Klyne Snodgrass)

How do you find this to be a true statement in the roles of wives and husbands?

6. In Ephesians 5: 31-32, the bond of marriage is likened to Christ's relationship to the church. "A Christian marriage...reproduces in miniature the beauty shared between the Bridegroom and the Bride. God created human marriage so that His people would have a category for understanding the relationship between Christ and His church."

(Crossway ESV Expository Commentary p. 48 by Benjamin L. Merkle)

How does the marriage of believers reflect this relationship?

What do you especially appreciate about being the "bride" of Christ the bridegroom?