

## Christian Family – Husbands and Wives Eph. 5:22-33

### Introduction:

Just because I am the one preaching this lesson does not mean I have a perfect marriage. However, there are some things that are taught in the Bible that we need to understand if we are going to have the proper Christian marriage.

Whether you agree or disagree with the things that are said today, the challenge before each of us is to search the word of God to see if these things are so. If they are, then they must be followed.

As we begin, it is important for us to understand that marriage is a God-ordained institution.

If we are going to have the proper relationship, there are certain things that are needed. Notice some of them today.

We also must understand that this entire passage is talking about Christ and His church (5:32). The analogy is made with the husband and wife relationship to give us a better understanding of the church.

- I. There is a need for the wife to submit to her husband (5:22, 24).
- II. There is a need for the husband to be the head of the wife (5:23).
- III. There is a need for the husband to love his wife (5:25-29, 32-33).

### I. There is a need for the wife to submit to her husband (5:22, 24).

- A. The wife is commanded to submit to her husband (5:22).
  1. Notice the definition of “submit” (Strong’s).
    - a. This word literally means “to subordinate, to obey.”
    - b. This is not a difficult command when everyone (wife and husband) is following after God.
      - 1) When the husband is the type of person he is supposed to be and loves his wife the way that he should (as Paul mentions later), this submission will naturally follow.
      - 2) “It would be much easier to submit to your husband if you admired him” (Gene Gilliland, FHU Lectures – 2002, pg. 125).
  2. This idea is taught elsewhere in the Scriptures.
    - a. Col. 3:18 - Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord.
    - b. I Pet. 3:1-6 - Wives, likewise, be submissive to your own husbands, that even if some do not obey the word, they, without a word, may be won by the conduct of their wives, {2} when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear. {3} Do not let your adornment be merely outward-- arranging the hair, wearing gold, or putting on fine apparel—{4}rather let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the incorruptible beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is very precious in the sight of God. {5} For in this manner, in former times, the holy women who trusted in God

also adorned themselves, being submissive to their own husbands, {6} as Sarah obeyed Abraham, calling him lord, whose daughters you are if you do good and are not afraid with any terror.

- c. From an early age, we need to teach our young women what it means to submit to one their husbands.
  - 1) **Titus 2:3-5** - the older women likewise, that they be reverent in behavior, not slanderers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things—{4} that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {5} to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
  - 2) All of this starts with the proper example being set at home for a child to see.
- 3. Wives are to submit to their husbands “as to the Lord” (5:22).
  - a. The wife is to submit because this is a command of God.
  - b. However, the wife should always put God first.
    - 1) In **I Cor. 7**, Paul talks about a situation in which the man says that the wife can either serve him or God.
    - 2) In this case, the wife is to remain faithful to God.
    - 3) **I Cor. 7:15** - But if the unbeliever departs, let him depart; a brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases. But God has called us to peace.
    - 4) The idea is to be faithful to God first, then submit to your husband.
  - 4. This is a command that God has given that still applies to us today.
- B. The submission of the wife is seen in Christ and His church (5:24).
  - 1. The church is to be in submission to Christ.
    - a. The church is to follow after what Christ commands us to do throughout the word of God.
    - b. As we look at this relationship, it would not make sense to say that the church and Christ are equal.
    - c. Because of what Christ has done for the church (as we will notice later), He is to be obeyed.
  - 2. Just as the church is subject to Christ, wives are to be subject to their own husbands.
    - a. In fact, the word “submit” is the same word that is used to describe our submission to God.
      - 1) **Js. 4:7** - Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.
      - 2) **Eph. 1:22-23** - And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
    - b. Christ does not submit to the church, but rather the church submits to Him.

## II. There is a need for the husband to be the head of the wife (5:23).

- A. The husband is commanded to be the head of the wife (5:23).
  1. Notice what it means to be the head of the wife.
    - a. The context of the passage gives us the greatest clue as to what this word means (we will look at the comparison between Christ and the church in just a moment).
    - b. This word gives us the indication of being in charge or control.
    - c. In fact, God has always intended for the man to be the head of the wife.
      - 1) **Gen. 3:16** - To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."
      - 2) **I Cor. 11:3** - But I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.
    - d. This is not some idea that man has established; but rather it is what God has intended from the beginning.
  2. This is an obligation and responsibility that men must take seriously.
    - a. Imagine what would happen if...
      - 1) Christ was the type of leader that some men are with their families?
      - 2) Or what if He refused to take the responsibility to be the head of the church?
    - b. The church would be in chaos and no one would know what commands we are to follow.
  3. We need to teach men (even young boys) from an early age what it means to be the head of the wife.
- B. We see what it means to be the head when we look at the relationship of Christ and His church (5:23).
  1. On several occasions, Christ is called the head of the church.
    - a. **Eph. 1:22-23** - And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, {23} which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.
    - b. **Col. 1:18** - And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence.
  2. Christ is the head of the church because of what He has done for her.
    - a. "He is the Savior of the body."
    - b. Because Christ has saved the church by the giving of His life, He is the head of the body.

### III. There is a need for the husband to love his wife (5:25-29, 32-33).

- A. The Greek word for “love” is “agape.”
  - 1. This is the self-sacrificing type of love that we should have for one another.
  - 2. It is the kind of love we have when we want the very best for others (in this context, our wives).
  - 3. It is only when we have this love for our wives that we can fulfill the plan of the proper marriage in the eyes of God.
- B. Notice Paul says about this love (5:25a, 28-29, 32).
  - 1. It is a command to love our wives (5:25a).
  - 2. We are to love them as we love our own bodies (5:28-29).
    - a. No one has ever hated his own body.
    - b. If we hurt ourselves physically in some way, we seek to relieve that pain and help our bodies to recover.
    - c. The same is true with our wives.
      - 1) We do our very best to protect them.
      - 2) When they hurt, we try to relieve that pain in the best way that we know how.
- C. This is the same kind of love that Christ had for the church (5:25-27).
  - 1. Remember that great price that Jesus had to pay in order to purchase the church.
    - a. It cost Him His blood.
    - b. Acts 20:28 - It is the church “which He purchased with His own blood.”
  - 2. Jesus literally gave His life for the church.
    - a. This was a gift that He gave to us; no one forced Him to do anything.
    - b. Jn. 10:18 - No one takes it from Me, but I lay it down of Myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This command I have received from My Father.
  - 3. This is the same kind of love that husbands should have towards their wife.

### Conclusion:

The husband/wife relationship is extremely important in the eyes of God. In our society today, we have too many women trying to be the head of the household; and too many men allowing them to do so. We have too many men who refuse to stand up and be the head of the house. In order to please God in our marriages, we must follow the pattern and commands that He has given to us.