

Eph 5:22-33

Eph 5:18-21

18 And do not be drunk with wine, in which is dissipation but be filled with the Spirit, (NLT - Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life.)

19 speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, 20 giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, 21 submitting to one another in the fear of God.

In verses 18-21 Paul is speaking of a Spirit filled person,

- one who is humble.

Paul is setting the stage for what he's going to say next in verse 22.

He says, submit to one another in the fear of the Lord.

The word "submit" is derived from a combination of two Greek words "hupo" - meaning "under" and "tasso" meaning "to rank or arrange or to place oneself under."

The military used the term "submit"

- in place of order and function
- not of superiority and inferiority.

Submission isn't tyranny or slavery. In fact, to submit is actually an act of humility.

Phil 2:3

3 Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness (humility) of mind let each esteem others better (above) than himself.

Rom 12:10

10 Love each other with genuine affection, and take delight in honoring each other.

Paul is saying to submit to one another.

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. (this does not imply superiority of the male)

Paul adds, as to the Lord.

- It's an act of worship to the Lord.
- It's a choice

God's word is our final authority.

Heb 1:1-2

2

1 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

God changes our way of thinking when we submit to His authority.

Paul said In Ephesians 2, we were once dead in trespasses and sins, we walked according to the course of this world. even when we were dead in trespasses, God made us alive together with Christ.

Eph 4:17-20

17 This I say, therefore, and testify in the Lord, that you should no longer walk as the rest of the Gentiles walk, in the futility of their mind, 18 having their understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God, because of the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart; 19 who, being past feeling, have given themselves over to lewdness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

20 But you have not so learned Christ, (In other words, that isn't what you learned about Christ. He is gentle and meek.)

Eph 5:21 says this was a mutual submission

That's why Paul says to esteem others better than yourself.

Peter also spoke of submission:

1 Peter 3:1-4

1 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 (pure) conduct accompanied by fear.

We should have a reverent fear of the Lord.

The theme of Peter's letter was submission. That's why he used the word "likewise." This is to be a mutual submission between the man and the woman.

Remember:

- you may be winning your husband over
- to the Lord thru your submission

Think of this:

- On day God will reveal the New Jerusalem

Rev 21:2

2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

Ladies, don't stop praying for your husband, men, don't stop praying for your wife.

People go into marriages thinking of 50/50 when it should be 100/100.

Ladies are invaluable to their husband.

Peter went on to say in 1st Peter:

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.

Jesus used the same Greek word for precious in Mark 14

- when He spoke of a woman that anointed His head
- with and expensive fragrant oil.

Jesus told them what this lady did

- would be a memorial to her
- wherever the gospel is preached.

The Lord desires the heart, not the outward beauty.

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.

As we continue in our study, we'll see that Paul actually says more to the man than to any of the other groups he mentions in these passages.

Now Paul addresses the husband.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Men, don't forget your vows,

- for better or for worse,
- in sickness and in health.

In 1 Cor 11:7 Paul said that the woman is the glory of man.

She is a reflection of you.

- If you see things in her that you don't care for,
- then maybe you need to take a closer look at what you're doing.

Now, I'm not saying that the husband is responsible for his wife's sin if she's sinning,

- but it is our responsibility to lead her in the ways of the Lord.

But she is our first ministry.

We are to love our wife as Christ loved the church and gave HIMSELF for her.

There are four different Greek words for love, only two are used in scripture.

Érōs - is the source of the English word “erotic” and is primarily used for sensual love between a husband and a wife.

Stérgō - an affectionate love between family members such as we see in the siblings Mary, Martha and Lazarus.

Phileo - A little more intimate than Stérgō. This is the type of love best friends would display for one another. 1 Sam 18 is a perfect example of this. Jonathan was knit to the soul of David.

Agápe - Is the most powerful and noblest type of love. It’s a sacrificial type of love. It’s an act of the will. This is the type of love God has for us.

Paul used the *Agápe* form of love when speaking of the marriage relationship.

1 Peter 3:7

7 Husbands, likewise, dwell with them (to hang out with, to spend time with your wife. We shouldn’t be so busy that we don’t spend time with our wife.)

with understanding, (be gracious knowing that she is not perfect)

giving honor to the wife, as to the weaker vessel, (respect her, don’t yell at her, treat her as a child of God and as a sister in the Lord.)

and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. (to cut in or to interrupt. It’s a military term of someone trying to destroy a road so that the enemy cannot advance toward you)

That’s just like Satan,

- he tries to disrupt your relationship
- with God and with your spouse.
- And one way for our prayers to be hindered is unforgiveness.

25 Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,

Men, we are to have a sacrificial love for our wife.

Rom 5:8

8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

So, how are we to love our wife? The same way Christ loves the church
26 that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word,

We are to be the spiritual head of our family, of our spouse.

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.

How would we hand our bride over to the Lord?

- Would she be without spot or wrinkle!
- Will she be holy and without blemish?

If we we're to hand our bride to Christ,

- would she be washed with love from us?

Eph 1:4

4 just as He chose us in Him (Christ) before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,

28 So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies, (ought - to owe, to be indebted); 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.

When mankind thinks they can redefine marriage, they are flirting disaster.

- God said marriage is between the man and the woman. (Gen 2:24)

One flesh means sticking to your partner much like Israel was repeatedly urged to stick to the Lord in their covenant relationship.

Deut 13:4

4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear Him, and keep His commandments and obey His voice; you shall serve Him and hold fast to Him.

God is the one that made a suitable helper for Adam. Why! Because He knew that Adam was incomplete.

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.

Matthew Henry once said that woman was not taken from man's head to be above him. She was not taken from his feet to be walked by him. She was taken from his side to be close to him, from under his arm to be protected by him and dear to his heart to be loved by him.