

Ephesians 5:22-33 The Marriage Relationship

Verse 22

Wives be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord.

Subject is a Greek military term meaning “to arrange under.”

As to the Lord – Not “*as the Lord*” but “*as to the Lord*.” The wife’s submission is her service rendered to the Lord.

Verse 23

For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ is the head of the church –

Four responsibilities of submission (1 Peter 3:1-6)

1. Attitude of entrusting oneself to God (1 Pet. 2:24)
2. Respectful behavior (1 Pet. 3:1-2)
2. Development of Godly character (1 Pet. 3:3-5)
4. Doing what is right (1 Pet. 3:6)

He Himself being the Savior of the body – Jesus protects and nourishes His body, the church. He saved the church eternally by his death on the cross and he saves the church daily by His intercession and provision.

Verse 24

But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything. The husband has been placed by God into the position of authority and responsibility.

In everything – Within the wife/husband relationship. However the wife has a higher responsibility to obey the Lord.

Verse 25

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

Love = *agape*, self-sacrificial love. Love that seeks the highest good of another person.

Gave Himself up for her – Jesus demonstrated His love by dying on the cross for our sins.

Verse 26

That He might sanctify her – The Greek word for *sanctify* means to “set apart” or to “make holy.”

Having cleansed her by the washing of water – Spiritual cleansing in the sense that God washes away our sins when we believe.

With the word – *Word* = *rhema*, the spoken word that unbelievers hear. The gospel proclaimed.

Verse 27

That He might present to Himself the church in all her glory...

-having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing

-but that she should be holy and blameless

*Ephesians 1:4

*Colossians 1:22

Verses 28-29

Husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies

Anyone of sound mind takes care of his or her own body. If you *love* your wife – you *love* yourself! *Just as Christ also does the church.*

Nourishes – “To nourish or bring up to maturity.”

The only other use of this word in the N.T. is in Ephesians 6:4 where fathers are to “bring up” their children.

Cherishes – “To warm, to cherish with tender love.” The only other usage of this word in the N.T. is in 1 Thess. 2:7 speaking of a mother’s love.

Verses 30-31

For we are members of His body.

Colossians 1:18 – *He is the head of the body, the church...*

Colossians 2:19 – Christ is the head who supplies to the whole body all it needs for growth.

For this cause a man shall leave his father and mother and shall cleave to his wife; and the two shall become one flesh. Just as

Christ and the church are one body so the husband and wife are one. Adam said that Eve was “*bone of my bone and flesh of my flesh.*” (Genesis 2:23)

Verse 32

The mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. Just as the relationship of the church to Christ was a mystery, revealed only after His death and resurrection, so the marriage relationship is a mystery that only believers can enjoy as they model Jesus’ relationship to the church.

Verse 33

Nevertheless – Paul recaps and applies!

Husband – love your wife even as yourself.

Wife – See to it that you respect your husband