

A Marriage that Reflects Christ

Ephesians 5: 22-33

Ephesians 5:31-32 HCSB

³¹ For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.^[a]

³² This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church.

Ephesians 5: 22-30

²² Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord, ²³ for the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church. He is the Savior of the body. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so wives are to submit to their husbands in everything. ²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing^[b] her with the washing of water by the word. ²⁷ He did this to present the church to Himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and blameless. ²⁸ In the same way, husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ For no one ever hates his own flesh but provides and cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, ³⁰ since we are members of His body.

“The man who sanctifies his wife understands that this is his divinely ordained responsibility... Is my wife more like Christ because she is married to me? Or is she like Christ in spite of me? Has she shrunk from His likeness because of me? Do I sanctify her or hold her back? Is she a better woman because she is married to me?” —[R. Kent Hughes](#)

Ephesians 5: 32-33

³²This mystery is profound, but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³To sum up, each one of you is to love his wife as himself, and the wife is to respect her husband.

THE TAKE AWAYS

1. Men- put God first
2. Women- put God first
3. Men- put your wife 2nd
4. Women- put your husband 2nd
5. Men put yourself 3rd
6. Women put yourself 3rd

Have a good and godly marriage that shows the world Christ's love through how you sacrificially love and serve one another. —John Stange

Contract vs. Covenant

Contract	Covenant
Obligation: "I have to."	Opportunity: "I want to."
Impersonal: "Involves something I have or do."	Personal: "Involves all that I am."
Conditional: " <i>If you do your part, I'll do mine.</i> "	Unconditional: " <i>I'll do my part whether you do yours or not.</i> "
Leverage: "I look out for my own best interest."	Loyalty: "I am looking out for your best interest."
Suspicion: "I want assurance that you will do your part."	Trust: "I will certainly do my part."
Business: "What will it take?"	Relational: "Whatever it takes!"
Compromise: " <i>I'll meet you halfway.</i> "	Sacrifice: " <i>I'll give 100%.</i> "
Temporary: "Once all stipulations have been met, the contract is over."	Permanent: "I will continue to do this as long as I draw breath."