



## Love and Respect

Ephesians 5:21-33

**Big Idea:** Love Your Wife; Respect Your Husband

**Introduction:** Marriage is ordained by God. Marriage is instituted in the Bible. God has determined for men and women to marry and serve His purposes. Married couples are to serve the Lord together 1) Giving him Glory 2) Having Children 3) Discipling. Everything in creation is part of the plans and purposes of God designed to bring us to Him in salvation and relationship forever. Men, women and children depending on God as creator and Lord is magnified in every way every day and marriage is absolutely a significant part of God's plan. Marriage established God's way serves God's plans and purpose for men, women, children and communities to experience the peace of Christ!

21 submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

### I. Submit to One Another

22 Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. 23 For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. 24 Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

### II. Wives Submit to Your Husband

25 Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, 26 that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, 27 so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. 28 In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. 29 For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, 30 because we are members of his body. 31 "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." 32 This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. 33 However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and

### **III. Husbands Submit to Christ by Loving Your Wife the way Christ Loves You.**

33 (cont.) let the wife see that she respects her husband.

### **IV. Wives Respect Your Husband**

*Conclusion:* God's word is always practical. God is not theoretical. The practical applications of the instructions found in Ephesians 5 for husbands and wives is the best available anywhere in the world. When husbands love their wives the way Christ loves them, wifely submission is practically automatic. If your marriage is not fulfilling, more often than not, the husband is likely not showing the kind of love for his wife that Christ has shown to him. It is also possible that the wife is not submitting to Christ. Step up Christlike love for your wives, husbands!!! Step up your submission to Christ, wives!!!

*Blessing:* May God Bless your marriage. Husbands, may the Lord show you how much He loves you and how much He expects you to lead your wife with love; laying down your life for her! Wives, may the Lord show you how much He loves you and desires for you to be loved by your husband the way He loves you. Respecting and submitting to your husband is part of His plan for you and for your marriage. May the Lord bless your marriage by strengthening your love for Him and the love you have for each other.

## Life Application Questions:

1. What does it mean for husband and wife to submit to one another out of respect and reverence for Christ?
2. What does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband? What are the practical applications of this directive?
3. How should a husband love his wife? What does this really look like day in and day out?
4. What obstacles keep wives from submitting to (respecting) their husbands?
5. What obstacles keep husbands from loving (putting) their wives (first)?
6. What does a marriage look like where the husband loves his wife the way Christ loves us and the wife submits to her husband's Christlike leadership?
7. Why don't more Christians have this kind of marriage?
8. What steps will you take to be the kind of spouse Paul writes about in Ephesians 5?
9. PRAY: Asking the Lord to help you fulfill your role as spouse in your marriage!