

Ephesians 5:21-33 Study Questions

Biblical families, especially the marriage relationship, have often been seen in our culture as oppressive and enslaving. We all know of homes where this seems to be the case. But we shouldn't make the mistake of thinking that because some families get it horribly wrong, it isn't possible to get it right, at least some of the time. As one theologian put it, "just because the garden grows weeds, we shouldn't pave it over with concrete."

Marriage and the family were designed as a place of love, security, affirmation, and refreshment. Thus, through our family relationships, we have the great potential to demonstrate the same principles of the gospel message. (i.e. submission, love, sacrifice, obedience, honesty, fairness).

Reflect on the following questions:

1. How would you describe the ideal marriage defined by culture? Why does God's ideal seem (or come across as) oppressive?
2. Ephesians 5:21 tells us we are to "Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." Can you give some practical examples of how this plays out in daily life?
3. Read Ephesians 5:22-23. Why is the idea of submission considered a bad word today? What is the difference between biblical understanding of what submission is versus how our culture defines it? What is similar?
4. If you are a wife, when do you find it hardest to submit? Why?
5. Read Ephesians 5:25-33. How are husbands, in turn, to treat their wives? How does comparing a husband's love for his wife to how the Messiah loved the church remove any danger of the husband abusing the wife's submission?
6. How is the Bible's view of what leadership means in a marriage different from our culture's view?

7. If you are a husband, in what ways are you leading your wife in a Christ-like way? In what ways is the Spirit prompting you to be more Christ-like?

8. What are practical ways husbands and wives can live out Ephesians 5:33