

Marriage – A Picture of Christ & the Church

Eph. 5:22-33

"Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord." (Eph. 5:22)

Wives are to submit to their own husbands. Webster's 1828 Unabridged Dictionary defines "submit" as "to yield, resign, or surrender to the power, will or authority of another."

Wives are to submit "as to the Lord" (Eph. 5:22), that is as if they are doing it unto the Lord. When they submit to their husbands they are ultimately submitting to God.

Wives can win their husbands to the Lord by being submissive and by their chaste conduct. (1 Peter 3:1)

Wives are to submit to their husbands as long as it "is fitting in the Lord" (Col. 3:18). If a husband tells the wife to do something contrary to the word of God than the wife ought not to obey.

Likewise the church (the bride of Christ) ought to submit to their husband, the Lord Jesus Christ.

"For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body." (Eph. 5:23)

The husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church.

"The head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God." (1 Cor. 11:3)

"Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything." (Eph. 5:24)

Wives are to be subject to their husbands in everything (as long as it is according to word of God). Likewise the church is to be subject to Christ in everything.

"Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her," (Eph. 5:25)

Husbands ought to love their wives just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for her. Christ loved the church sacrificially and unselfishly.

"That He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word, 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." (Eph. 5:26-27)

Christ uses His word to cleanse and sanctify the church (John 15:3; 17:17). So husbands ought to use the word of God as an instrument of sanctification in the wife.

"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones. "For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh." This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church." (Eph. 5:28-32)

The husband ought to love his wife as his own body and nourish and cherish his wife just as the Lord does the church. If a man loves his wife, he loves himself for the husband and wife are no longer two but one flesh (Matt. 19:6).

"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." (Eph. 5:33)

The husband ought to love his wife as himself. The wife ought to respect her husband (1 Peter 3:6). The fundamental duty of husbands is to love their wives. By way of contrast, the fundamental duty of the wives is to respect their husbands.

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