



Christ & the Church

How to have a fulfilled marriage

Ephesians 5:22-33

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

²⁵Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. ²⁸In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church— ³⁰for we are members of his body. ³¹"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." ³²This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church.

³³However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

(New International Version)

Discussion Questions:

How does a person's marriage affect them at work?

5:22 – Why does this verse stir up so much controversy?

Does submitting mean to be a rug mat for the other person?

Why do you think God specified that wives should submit to their husbands?

How does the submission of the wife address the disorder that occurred as a consequence of mankind's sin?

5:23 – How is marriage representative of the relationship Christ has with the church?

5:24 – What is added here to this concept of submission?

5:25-27 – What does God expect of husbands?

How does a marriage work when either the husband or the wife is not yielded to the Holy Spirit?

Why do we see more cases where a Christian wife is married to an unbelieving husband than the other way around?

What is a "*radiant church*?"

5:28-30 – How should husbands love their wives?

Why is an emphasis on husbands loving their wives needed?

How should a husband feed and care for his wife?

5:30 – How is the church members of the body of Christ?

5:31 – How is it that a man and wife become one flesh?

5:32 – What is the mystery and why is it a mystery?

Why would God keep mysteries from his people during one time period only to reveal them in another?

5:33 – What commands are reinforced here and why?

How is Ephesians 5:33 tied to the discussion on marriage being representative of Christ and the church?

How should an understanding of the relationship God expects to have with the church affect how we conduct ourselves at work?