

Ephesians Part 15: Husbands and Wives

Ephesians 5:21-33



Tim Strickland

May 14, 2017

submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.

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.*

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 let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

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Introduction: Husbands and Wives

a. *Eph 5:18,21 Be filled with the Spirit...submitting to one another...*

A Spirit-filled person yields to others – Paul gives three examples of relationships where mutual submission is required

- Husbands and Wives – Eph. 5:22-33 (Today)
- Children and Parents – Eph. 6:1-4
- Employers and Employees – Eph. 6:5-9

b. The relationship between a husband and wife is a picture of the relationship between Jesus and the church

c. Today's passage may be challenging to you at first glance

- We will walk through it in reverse order, starting at v33

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Summary: Love and Respect (33)

³³ *However, let each one of you love his wife as himself,
and let the wife see that she respects her husband.*

- A husband's basic duty is **to love** his wife
- A wife's basic duty is **to respect** her husband

1. Husbands (25-32)

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as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

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just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body.

a. "Agape-love" your wife like Christ loves the church

- Three Greek words for love:

Eros (romantic love) *Philia* (friendship love) *Agape* (sacrificial love)

b. What does a husband's agape love look like? – 1 Corinthians 13:4-7

(Agape) Love...

- ...is patient
- ...does not boast
- ...does not insist on its own way
- ...is not resentful
- ...rejoices in the truth
- ...believes all things
- ...is kind
- ...is not arrogant
- ...does not rejoice at wrongdoing
- ...bears all things
- ...hopes all things
- ...does not envy
- ...is not rude
- ...is not irritable
- ...endures all things

c. When a husband agape-loves his wife, he helps her to be her best (26-27)

d. Love your wife like you love your own body

- Marriage is a union where the two become one flesh
 - When you love your wife you love yourself
- Love her by:
 - *Nourishing her*
 - *Cherishing her*

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2. Wives (22-24)

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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.*

a. Submit to your husband like the church submits to Christ

What submission is not:

- Submission is not subjugation
- Submission is not blind obedience
- Submission does not imply inferiority (Gal. 3:28)

What submission is:

- Submission is voluntarily allowing and encouraging your husband to take the lead in your family
 - In practice, it will mean
 - Each of you doing family roles that you are gifted to do
 - Discussing decisions before acting
- Note that a form of submission is required of a husband also, in the form of self-sacrificing love and care for his wife

Summary: Love and Respect – Practical Steps

1) For Husbands

- Ask yourself, “How can I sacrifice for my wife?”
 - time
 - money
 - preferences
- Ask your wife, “How could I make your life better?”
 - Listen to her response and act on it
- Ask your wife, “How can I make you feel more loved?”
 - Listen to her response and act on it
- Brag to your friends about your wife and tell her
- Pray for your wife

2) For Wives

- Ask yourself, “How can I support and encourage my husband’s leadership of our family?”
- Ask your husband, “How can I make you feel more respected?”
- Brag to your friends about your husband and tell him
- Pray for your husband

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Your Response

1. Ask God to fill you with His Spirit. We are empowered to submit to one another when we are filled with the Spirit.

2. ***Will you receive salvation in Jesus: a free gift of God, by faith?***

- *Believe in Jesus, and His death and resurrection*
- *Repent of your sin and place your trust in Jesus*
- *Commit to Jesus as Lord of your life*

because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. Romans 10:9

For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

Ephesians 2:8-9

Ephesians Series: God's Purposes for You in Christ

May 7	Part 14: Be Filled with the Spirit
May 14	Part 15: Husbands and Wives (Mother's Day)
May 21	Part 16: Children and Parents
May 28	Guest Speaker: Jamie Strickland, Calvary Guelph
June 4	Part 17: Employers and Employees
June 11	Part 18: Spiritual Warfare: The Armour of God
June 18	Part 19: Spiritual Warfare: Prayer
June 25	Part 20: Conclusion – Looking Back at Ephesians

Questions for Reflection

1. What is the difference between *eros* love, *philia* love and *agape* love?
 2. What does it look like for a husband to show *agape* love to his wife?
 3. What does it look like for a wife to submit to her husband?
 4. Have you responded to the God's grace in faith and repentance, trusting in Jesus Christ for forgiveness of sins, and eternal life? Why not do so today?
- See Response Point 2 above on this page.

2 Cor. 6:2b *now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*

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