

**Ephesians 5:22-33**

Session 11

**Your relationship with your spouse will only be as strong**

**as the relationship you have with the Lord**

I’ve been saying this statement for years as I have counseled hundreds of engaged and married couples. Truly if you want a successful marriage, it will require the husband to consistently show love to his wife and for his wife to show proper respect for her husband. This is what Paul wants us to set our sights on in this passage before us.

* Read the passage on your own
* If in a group, have someone read it out loud.



**Observations - What do I see?**

* What are some key words or phrases that stand out to you in this passage?
* Paul gives several commands to wives and husbands using marriage as a reminder of Christ and His church. What are those?
* Husbands love your wife (vs. 25,28,33) How?

* Wives submit and respect your husband (vs. 22,24,33) How?

***Helpful Notes:*** **A Biblical View of Submission:** Submission is not walking all over someone, being demanding, or to treat like a slave. The biblical word Paul is using here means a mutual acceptance of the person’s authority out of respect or love which you have for that individual.

Wives are to submit to their husband, not someone else’s husband. When the wife submits, this does not mean that the wife is less or lower than her husband, but she places herself under his godly authority and leadership just as we place ourselves under the authority of Christ. (see verse 21). Wives are to willingly submit to their husband because of the love and sacrifice and protection that he offers her.

Notice Paul says wives should submit in everything to their husband. Everything? Certainly Paul is not saying the wife has to submit to her husband by committing a sin or doing something which is contrary to the Word of God. Everything means everything consistent with the character of Christ. A wife is never to follow her husband into sin. Any wife would be glad to submit to a Spirit-filled husband whose leadership style reflects that of Christ.

**HUSBAND’S ROLE LOVE YOUR WIFE**

How does the husband show love for his wife?

* He loves her as Christ loves the church. How did Christ love the church? To death! Christ sacrificed himself for the church.
* He leads through self-sacrifice. He proves his love for her in his words, actions and attitude. If the husband is rude, harsh, unkind, impatient, demanding, and prideful, toward his wife, tensions will arise in the marriage.

Paul uses the analogy of THE BODY (vs. 28-29)

All bodies need a head - not two heads, not no head, but one head. That's why God established a single head over the family. And it’s the head of the husband to supply that leadership, while a wife lends her support.

**WIFE’S ROLE RESPECT HER HUSBAND**

How does the wife show respect for her husband?

* She is supportive of his leadership
* She is not quick to complain, or nag.
* She demonstrates a spirit of encouragement and support in his leadership.

 **GOD**

 **SUBMIT**

 **LOVE RESPECT**

In my years of ministry, I have seen very few women have difficulty submitting and respecting their husbands, when their husband loves his wife as Christ loved the church. The challenge is to…

**STAY IN YOUR LANE!**

Have you ever had a car that begins to drift over into your lane? What do you do? You honk your horn as a warning to say, “get back over and stay in their lane.” When we stay in our proper lane as husband and wife recognizing our specific role, it will unify our marriage causing us to appreciate the other persons role. Vs. 33 “However, let each one love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.” When a husband loves his wife, she respects him - which prompts more love for her, which then solicits more respect for him. But if a husband feels disrespected, he won’t love his wife, which will fuel more disrespect in her… and on and on. Husbands need to love, and wives need to respect.

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**Application-Putting it Into Practice**

**HUSBANDS**: In a practical way, how do you show and prove your love to your wife?

**WIVES**: In a practical way, how do you show submission and respect to your husband?



Take a moment and pray with your spouse, asking that God would give you as a married couple the same love and respect which God has given to you through the sacrifice love of His Son, Jesus Christ.



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