

Submission and Love **Ephesians 5:22-33**

We are called to walk in the love and light of Christ. This is not merely a call to obey God individually, but is also to be applied relationally. We are to subject ourselves to one another in the context of relationships (5:21). The most profound of all human relationships is the marriage relationship. While the world has largely given up on lifelong marriage, the Christian is to strive to walk in submission and love in the marriage relationship.

Topic: Wives are called to submit to their husbands (5:22). This wifely submission has its grounding in the fact that the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church (5:23). Husbands are called to love their wives (5:25). This husbandly love has its grounding in the fact that Christ also loved the church and gave up Himself for her (5:25). The grounding for all of this is the fact that we are made in the image of God and ought to reflect His glory. All this marriage talk of submission and love is mysterious, but the mystery is revealed in the relationship between Christ and the church.

- Why is the world so opposed to wifely submission?
- How does headship play into submission? Who is the head of Christ? Who is head of the church? If Christ submits to the Father, and the church submits to Christ, why shouldn't the wife submit to her husband?
- Why is this not a misogynistic thing?
- Why is the world so opposed to husbandly love if it is not considered in the grand gesture of laying his life down, but is considered in the daily helpful/loving actions?
- How did Christ demonstrate love for the church other than through His death? (see 5:26)
- Why should a husband love his wife as his own body? (see 5:28-30)
- How is the mystery of submission and love revealed in Christ?

Association: Whether you are married or not, the principle of submission and love is still applicable to your life.

- Women, do you buck against submission to male headship? If so, how so?
- Men, do you buck against the loving leadership of men? If so, how so?
- Women, how do you demonstrate submission in your marriage, or how did you, or how do you plan to?
- Men, how do you demonstrate loving leadership in your marriage, or how did you, or how do you plan to?

Guidance: provide your best encouragement to your discipleship partner regarding your partner's relationship. Share some good examples of godly wifely submission that you think of or share some good examples of godly husbandly loving leadership that you can think of. Pray for and with one another.