

IV. What marriage shows us about God's kingdom.

"This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church." Vs.32

This image in the OT, that God is like a husband and Israel is like his bride, and this image in the New Testament, that Christ is like our husband and we are like his bride, is not just a metaphor.

Book of Revelation points to a reality, at the end of time, there will be the marriage feast of the Lamb, to his bride the church.

John MacArthur: *A husband's great motive for loving and caring for his wife is Christ's love, protecting and caring for his own bride, the church. Christian marriage is to be loving, self-sacrificing and mutually submissive because those virtues characterize the relationship of Jesus and the church.*

Community Group Questions:

Husbands:

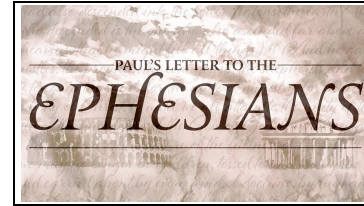
1. Are you loving your wife as Christ loves the church? How? Consider examples of Christlike love you've expressed through surrender, forgiving, honoring, cherishing. Would your wife agree with your answer?

2. Have you tended toward the extreme of tyranny, being "*the boss*" rather than the gentle shepherd of the family? Or have you tended toward the extreme of passivity, failing to take seriously your leadership responsibilities?

Wives:

1. What is your attitude toward submitting to your husband? Have you been resistant? Why?

2. Do you encourage your husband, treat him with respect, even when you disagree with him? Would he agree with your answer?



How Being Filled with the Spirit Looks in a Marriage Ephesians 5:21-33

²¹ Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. ²² Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her ²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, ²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—³⁰ for 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." ³² This is a profound mystery—but I am talking about Christ and the church. ³³ However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

I. What is the biblical definition of marriage?

"For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." Ephesians 5:31/Genesis 2:24

United/Cleave—means covenant relationship. A permanent relationship established by a personal commitment.

Meaning of married life? Bound up in covenant, not chemistry.

The binding promise of future love.

That's what marriage is designed to be.

II. What is marriage's purpose?

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her²⁶ to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.²⁸ In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—

Ephesians 5:25-29

1st purpose is "*Husbands lead sacrificially*"

(Jesus) gave himself up for (true believers)²⁶ to make (us) holy, cleansing (us) by the washing with water through the word,²⁷ and to present (true believers) to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.

Ephesians 5:25-27

Paul gives husbands an example of what He's asking for.

²⁸ *In this same way*, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church—

2nd purpose is to "*Bridge the gap between men and women*"

Notice the way the wife's role is described
and the way the husband's role is described.

Men are called to live *Sacrificially* for their brides.

Women are called to live under his *Headship*.

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²⁴ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.

Ephesians 5:22-24

What does headship mean? It means leadership, or *final say*.

The Bible tells us two things in the text that crack open this whole idea of headship in marriage.

1st thing- *The man must never exercise headship to please himself*

"Love your wives as Christ loved the church and sacrificed, died, for her, gave himself up for her."

Verse 25

2nd thing- It's the husband's job to always put the needs and desires of his wife ahead of his own.

When does the husband overrule in a disagreement?

When you think you're doing what's best for you both, but never to please yourself alone.

III. What does marriage need to make these commands work?

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." vs. 21

This is actually the last clause in a long sentence that stretches back to verse 18 where Paul says, "Be filled with the Spirit."

It literally means to see others as better than yourself.

Verse 21 sets up the next nine verses. Then suddenly, in verse 22, he says, "*Wives, as to your husbands.*" **Why isn't there any transition?**

Because he hasn't changed the subject. What he's saying is Christian marriage is built upon this presupposition of verse 21.

How? By coming to grips with what Jesus has done for you.

"Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ." vs. 21