

WIVES AND HUSBANDS

Ephesians 5:21-33

1. All of the general commands for *all* Christians *still apply within marriage*.
2. Any Christian teaching on authority must refer to Jesus' teaching and example. (Mat 20:25-28)
3. The Christian doctrine of marriage is not a magic formula for personal fulfillment.

I. Submitting to One Another (15, 17, 21)

A. Every Christian is called to submit himself/herself:

1. For a greater good
2. Uniquely in particular relationships

B. Christian submission is motivated by the two great commandments

(Mat 22:37-40)—love for God and neighbor.

1. Love for Others—not self-seeking
2. Reverence for Christ—commitment to something bigger

II. The Calling of Wife (22-24; Gen 2:18)—suitable helper (ezer) for the man

A. Submit to Husband ()—supportive strength, arranged under

1. Devoted Strength (Prov 14:1 & 31:10-12)—does not imply inferior strength or worth
2. Not Absolute Obedience (21,22; Acts 4:19)—ultimate loyalty belongs to Christ
 - a. Do not obey him if he tells you to sin.
 - b. Do not enable his sin.
 - c. Do not be a passive doormat. Submission does not mean tolerating chronic abuse.
3. Not to All Men—to *your* man, *your* individual husband

B. Respect Husband (Eph 4:25-32; 1 Pet 3:9)—Not competing, undermining, hen-pecking, putting him down, insulting, manipulating...

1. Basic respect due to every human
2. Specific respect for position of responsibility
3. Especially demonstrated in the way we speak to him and about him

III. The Calling of Husband (25-31)—**A. Love His Wife (25, 28-30)—**

1. **As He Loves His Own Body** (28-30; Mat 22:39)—as much as he cares for himself
2. **As Christ Loved the Church** (25; Jn 13:34 & 15:12-13)—prioritizes her, sacrifices himself for her good

B. Take Responsibility (26, 31)—Authority granted to serve others, not self

1. **For the Well-being of His Wife ()**
 - a. **To Make Her Holy**
 - b. **To Make Her Beautiful**
2. **For the Leadership of His Family** (Gen 2:24; Mat 19:5)
 - a. **Leave His Parents**—He initiates a new relationship
 - b. **Hold Fast to His Wife**—intentional, on-going devotion; prioritizes her
 - c. **Become One Flesh** ()—not just you anymore; intimate partnership

IV. The Ultimate Relationship (32)—marriage pictures Christ and the Church**A. Don't Idolize Marriage.**

1. **Marriage is a picture of something greater.**
2. **Marriage is temporary, not eternal.** (Mat 22:30)
3. **Your husband is not Jesus.**

B. Honor Jesus in Your Marriage. Ultimately it is He who will judge and reward.

1. **Put Jesus first.** (Mat 10:37-38; 1 Cor 7:15)
2. **Love the way Jesus loves you.** (Jn 13:35; 15:12)
3. **Serve as Jesus serves.** (Mat 20:28; Jn 13:14)