

Ephesians 5:22-33

WALK IN WISDOM IN THE HOME (MARRIAGE)

Much of our society has a frightening mentality about marriage and the family. Having lost their base of authority, they are groping to figure out how to make human relationships meaningful in a culture that is disintegrating. With all the confusion, it is time to reiterate the divine pattern for marriage and family living. And the revival of the family has to begin in the church. ...If the family is not preserved, all of society will collapse; it is inevitable. The family is the basic unit of human society. When it crumbles, everything will come crashing down with it. —John MacArthur, Jr.

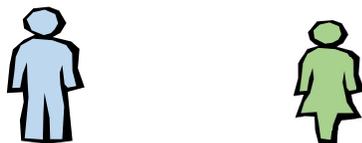
In a crazy world, why should I worry about marriage?

In days that are “full of labors, annoyances, hardships, and perils,” we are called to walk in wisdom—redeeming the time, understanding the will of the Lord, and being filled with the Spirit. In context, the Christian home is wedged between the filling of the Spirit and the waging of spiritual warfare. It is the arena where the “rubber meets the road” in our Christian life.

1. God _____ marriage (cf. Gen. 2:18-25).



2. Sin _____ marriage (cf. Gen. 3:8-16).



3. Christ _____ marriage...through the change in our hearts, the empowering of the Spirit, and the mutual submission of husbands and wives (cf. 5:21).

New life begins in the home. ...One can do heroic battle in the public arena but lose the war in the privacy of the home. The family is where, under the lordship of Christ, we learn to control our anger, rage, abusive language, and lying so that peace might reign. The family is where we first learn to work out the values of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience (Col. 3:12). There is no more difficult a place to exercise these virtues day in and day out than in the home.

—David E. Garland

Every obedient, Spirit-filled Christian is a submitting Christian. The husband who demands his wife’s submission to him but does not recognize his own obligation to submit to her distorts God’s standard for the marriage relationship and cannot rightly function as a godly husband. ...Although God ordains husbands as heads over their wives, and parents as heads over their children, He also ordains a mutuality of submission and responsibility among all members of the family.

—John MacArthur, Jr.

TO THE WIFE — SUBMIT TO YOUR OWN HUSBAND (5:22-24)

- Submitting to your husband, as the church submits to Christ, acknowledges God’s divine _____ for marriage.
- Submitting to your husband displays your _____ to the LORD.
- Submitting to your husband and respecting his leadership, even when his love falls woefully short of Christ’s love, is a way of meeting one of his deepest needs as a man.

TO THE HUSBAND — LOVE YOUR WIFE (5:25-32)

- Loving your wife, as Christ loves the church, is _____ your all—desiring her best, sacrificing for her benefit, and meeting her deepest needs, whatever the cost.
- Loving your wife is understanding the mystical, complete _____ of her to your body (cf. Genesis 2:24). Thus, loving her is, in effect, loving yourself.
- Loving your wife is magnifying the beautiful _____ of the Christ-church relationship. Christ has joined Himself to us in an eternal union with an unconditional love that we simply cannot comprehend (cf. 3:17-19).

THE SUMMARY — LOVE & RESPECT (5:33)



Submit. Greek, *hupotasso*, “to arrange under,” used of troops under the command of a leader. Biblically it is voluntarily placing oneself under God’s order of authority in relationships. It is used of Jesus’ submission to His parents (Lk. 2:51) and to God (1 Cor. 15:28). It is also used of believers to God (James 4:7), to government (1 Pet. 2:13), and to elders in a church (Heb. 13:17).

The research about this is crystal clear. People who are doing the very best in their marriages are those who feel the best about giving to one another. In these marriages people actually derive pleasure from giving to one another. —Dr. Scott Stanley

Agape love is to subordinate one’s own interests, pleasures, and personality for the benefit of someone else. —Arthur Patzia

A husband ought to ask himself regularly, “What have I given up for my wife lately? What sacrifices have I made to enhance her well-being?” Christ loved the church so much He made the ultimate sacrifice for her. That’s the model of a husband’s love. —Tony Evans

Pay attention to love’s high standard. If you take the premise that your wife should submit to you, as the church submits to Christ, then you should also take the same kind of careful, sacrificial thought for her that Christ takes for the church. Even if you must offer your own life for her, you must not refuse. Even if you must be cut into pieces ten thousand times and have all kinds of things to endure and suffer, you must not refuse.

—Chrysostom (AD 347-407)