

We Are God's Family
Husbands, Love Your Wives
Ephesians 5:25-33

LAST WEEK: Spirit-Filled Mutual Subjection

- Being wise about management of our future (5:15-17)
- Being filled with the Spirit (5:18)
 - In How We talk: speaking encouraging words (5:19)
 - In How We Relate to God: always giving thanks (5:20)
 - In How We Relate to Each Other: “mutual subjection” (5:21)

“Mutual Subjection” as Taught by Jesus

*“Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me.” **Matthew 16:24***

“If anyone wants to be first, he shall be last of all and servant of all.”

Mark 9:25

*“Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility consider one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ... but emptied Himself by taking the form of a bond-servant and being born in the likeness of men.” **Philippians 2:3-7***

A Man and His Calling in the Life of His Wife (Eph. 5:25-32)

1. A Man's Role Model: Jesus and the things He would do in order to care for the Church. (5:25-27)

“love your wives just as Christ loved the Church.” (5:20)

What did Jesus do for the church?

- Jesus gave up his own life for the church **25**
- His goal was to sanctify her; to make her special and holy. **26**
He did this by cleansing her... providing forgiveness.
He planted “the seed,” the Living Word, in her for growth.

- His purpose was her transformation; that she would be without flaws, holy and blameless. **27**

2. A man should seek to love His wife as much as Jesus loved the church. (5:28-30)

“husbands... love (your) wives as (your) own bodies” (5:28)

What does loving my wife as my own body mean?

- My wife is “my body” just as the church is Christ's Body. **28**
- I am responsible for nourishing and cherishing my wife as much as I have myself for my entire life because we are “one”. **29**
- Jesus has nourished me as His body since I became His. **29b-30**

3. God's design for marriage between a man and a woman has been “one flesh” since the beginning of time (5:31)

“For this reason, a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”

Genesis 2:24

How do I practice loving my wife better?

- It begins by “denying myself” in order to prioritize my role in serving my wife as much as Christ served the church.
- Because I am in “subjection” to her, I must explore ways I can build her up that she is most willing to receive.
- “Loving my wife” simply means caring more about her growth as a child of God than about myself.

Love and Respect by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs
The Love She Most Desires/The Respect He Desperately Needs