



Ephesians: “New Life//New Relationships: Husbands & Wives”

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Text: Ephesians 5:22-33

Main Point: God displays the glory of Jesus Christ in marriages that are shaped by his design.

Key Ideas:

1. The Role of the Wife

- John Piper: “*Submission* is the divine calling of a wife to honor and affirm her husband’s leadership and help carry it through according to her gifts. It’s the disposition to follow a husband’s authority and an inclination to yield to his leadership.

2. The Role of the Husband

- John Piper: “*Biblical headship for the husband is the divine calling to take primary responsibility for Jesus-like, servant-leadership, protection and provision in the home.*”

- Love your wife like Christ loves the church: graciously, sacrificially, with honour, redemptively.

Application Questions

1. God displays the glory of Christ in marriages shaped by his design. Where are you encouraged by your spouse’s obedience to God’s design of sacrificial love or respectful submission?
2. Ephesians 5:22-24 calls wives to submit to her husband as the church submits to Christ. Wives, is there an area where your husband is seeking to lead but your heart does not have a submissive posture? Where is God calling you to actively support and esteem his leadership and express your respect for him?
3. According to Ephesians 5:25, husbands are to love their wives sacrificially, like Christ loved his church. Husbands, is your love for your wife marked by a willingness to lay down your rights, your agenda and your preferences in order to love your wife? What is God calling you to do on your wife’s behalf that is going to cost you something?
4. As Christ nourished and cherished his bride, the church (Eph. 5:29), husbands where can you grow in nourishing and cherishing your wife, in serving and blessing her, and in caring for her physical and spiritual health?
5. Apply this message by asking for your spouse’s evaluation:
Husbands, ask your wives:
 - a. How would you honestly evaluate my leadership of you and the children?
 - b. What is one way I can serve you more effectively?
 - c. What is one way I can serve the children more effectively?
Wives, ask your husbands:
 - a. How would you honestly evaluate my submission and willingness of follow your leadership?
 - b. What is one way I can grow in following you?