

## MUTUAL SUBMISSION

October 28, 2018

Ephesians 5:21-33

Paul is calling believers to cultivate a lifestyle consistent with our profession to be “in Christ”.

- Live in the fullness of the Holy Spirit.
- Walk in loving relationships.

*SUBMISSION* – to respect, regard and deeply care for each other.

- Mutual submission is the key to healthy and productive relationships.
- It can never be required—it is willingly given on the basis of trust.

The instructions Paul gives to husbands and wives are a heavenly model for marriage.

- The focus is on being like Jesus.

### HUSBANDS

Paul isn't promoting male dominance, but he is calling husbands to accept responsible leadership in their marriage in the same spirit as Jesus leads the church.

- There is more weight addressed to the husband than to the wife.
- The emphasis here is to be like Jesus.

### Be the Head

Life flows from the head—remove it and there is no longer life—same with the church.

- Being the head means you are a leader, you set the example of being like Christ.
- A husband can be present but still not leading.

Jesus modeled leadership by only doing what He saw the Father doing and only spoke what He received from the Father.

- We must have our hearts tuned to the Father.
- Don't wait for your wife to hear from the Lord.

### Love Her

Women need to be loved and protected—our role is to provide this.

- Jesus draws us to Himself with cords of love—not with manipulation and control.
- Hosea loved Gomer despite her infidelity and the illegitimate children she bore.
- We don't love to get something from her or for her to become something—we love unconditionally like Jesus loves His church with all its challenges.
- 5:27 (TPT) – this is what Christ's love will do to us—“glorious and radiant, beautiful and holy, without fault or flaw (without wrinkle, chips or knots...covering their imperfections)” —is our love producing this in our wives?

## Lay Down Your Life for Her

Jesus gives Himself up for the church.

- Sacrifice your own interests in order to release hers.
- Like Jesus, the leader of all is the servant of all.

Eve was taken from Adam's side—not his foot or head.

- They were meant to serve side by side.
- Woman came from man, but man was to leave his family and cleave.
- *Cleave* – a permanent connection; it's where we get "glue", meaning to adhere to so strongly that nothing can separate you.

## WIVES

Women are never made second to men, but she is called to accept her husband's leadership and not endeavor to dominate.

## Respect

- *Respect* (v.33) – be devoted; reverence; esteem
- Serve your husband, honor him and edify him (build him up).
- *As to the Lord* – with the highest esteem and regard
- This is a call to be like Jesus—respond to your husband like you do to Jesus.
- Men also need to be appreciated and valued.
- Use the power of your words to call out the value in him—to build him up.

*RESPECT* (Webster Dictionary) – to feel or show honor; to hold in high regard

- *Re* – back
- *Specere* – to look at, examine
- Meaning: to look back at; to re-examine
- It's time to take a second look at your husband—through the eyes of Jesus.
- This may require forgiveness.
- Your relationship with God should be your primary reference point.
- Your value, significance and security should ultimately come from Him.

## BOTH

Marriage partners—bring your spouse your full potential!

- Giving love and respect should never be based on what your spouse gives you—it should be unconditional.
- Do not harden your heart—it leads to unbelief, lack of understanding, pride and stubbornness.