

Righteous Relationships

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Ephesians 5:21-33

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This is not just on the marriage relationship, but the principles of trust on God and faith in Christ reaches beyond marriage to our relationships with *all people*—in *all* situations.

NKJV Ephesians 5:21 *"Submitting to one another in the fear of God."*

22 *Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord.*

23 *For the husband is head of the wife, as also Christ is head of the church; and He is the Savior of the body."*

This is certainly about the scriptural relationship between husband and wife, but also our relationship with everyone—that if we will trust God in faith, Christ can change our relationships with people—by *"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God."*

Ephesians 5:24 *Therefore, just as the church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything."*

Our heart must be given over to Jesus—submitting to His authority concerning all things.

A husband should treat his wife in a proper way, and we can test our attitude by asking: How do **I** **treat** other people? Do **I** **show** love to others? Do

I **help** with a humble attitude? And, How do **I** **respond** when I don't get my way?

Ephesians 5:25 *Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her,*

26 *that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of water by the word."*

To love a wife should be easy, but loving others is the real test—as *Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her.*

The **agape love** Christ has for the church is patient, kind, giving, and by sacrificing Himself for the good of others.

The husband should always be kind and loving toward his wife, and the instruction goes further:

*Let the way Christ loves His people become the **pattern** for the way you love the person God has brought into your life as a lifetime helpmate.*

How does the love Christ showed **us**, **change** the way we love our **wife**?

If we are single: How does Christ's love **change** **our** relationships toward our friends?

If we are a parent: How does Christ's love **change** the way **we** instruct and discipline our children?

Ephesians 5:27 *"That He might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish."*

Christ loves His *church* and He continues to love *us*, so He keeps working with us to perfect our

faith in Him—changing our ways, our words, and our attitudes toward everyone—the goal is to have **Righteous Relationships**.

Christ is preparing His *glorious* church with the ultimate goal that all would come to Him in humility—and with a willingness to submit to Him.

To all who truly want to see change and will submit to His authority, they will be conformed to His image and character—**Matthew 5:48** *"You shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect."*

The goal is this: *not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing*, by our faith and trust in His *perfect* sacrifice.

The love Jesus has for us compels Him to work toward perfecting our faith in Him. He loves us and works *in* us so we will become what He wants us to be.

Ephesians 5:28 *"So husbands ought to love their own wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself."*

WEY *"Married men ought to love their wives as much as they love themselves."*

The man is to **Genesis 2:24**—**leave and cleave** *unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh*—the *two* are now *one*.

If we are **one**, then offending our *wife* is offending *ourselves*; and, caring for *her* is caring for *ourselves*.

The husband should **not** ask: *What can my wife do for me?* but, *How can I love and care for her?*"

The word **love** is used over and over to emphasize it is *more* than providing and deciding as head of the home—it is first *loving her* and *caring* for her.

Ephesians 5:29 *"For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church."*

To *nourish* is to *feed* and *sustain*; to *cherish* is to *care for* and *love*—"just as Christ feeds and cherishes the Church."

The **Gospel** tells of the close relationship between two individuals in a marriage—and a **marriage** should be an *example* of what the Gospel teaches.

The husband sees how Christ loves and cherishes His church, and he follows that **pattern**, because a *husband's love* in a marriage is **modeled after Christ's love** for His church.

Ephesians 5:30 *"For we are members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones."*

Back in **Ephesians 2:12** We "*were separate from Christ, excluded from citizenship in Israel and foreigners to the covenants of the promise, without hope and without God in the world.*

13 *But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far away have been brought near through the blood of Christ."*

This is for everyone—married, single, young, old—**everyone is invited to believe**, have an on-going and personal relationship with Jesus.

Since He *paid* for us, we *belong* to Him—so we give back to Him what belongs to Him.

Two become one in marriage—and **many become one in Christ**—by our faith **in** Him; by our love **of** Him; by our trust **on** Him; and by our obedience **to** His words.

A husband's love should not be controlling or self-serving, but seeking the good of the wife—just as Christ wants the good of every believer in Him.

THE GREAT MYSTERY

Ephesians 5:31 *"For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh."*

32 *This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church."*

This is WEY *an illustration of the way Christ and the church are one*—comparing the love shown between two in the marriage, and the much greater love shown between Christ and His church by His sacrifice.

Ephesians 5:33 *"Nevertheless let [I insist WEY] each one of you in particular so love his own wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband [or treats her husband with respect]"*.

Husbands—love; Wives—respect. During everyday situations—in the kitchen; the living room; the conversations—with agreements and disagreements, Christlike love needs to be applied.

It is easy to *talk* about loving as Christ does, but difficult when we are disappointed or insulted.

SUMMARY OF THE STUDY

Christ **loves everyone**—so He gave Himself **for everyone** [the church]; Christ cleanses our heart—He wants our devotion, trust, and obedience; Christ unites—He brings us close to Him by *our choice* to believe Him, trust Him, and by obeying His instructions.

A Christian marriage should reflect **sacrificial love; encouragement always; loving care; commitment to provide** the other person's needs; and to always say: "**No, you first!**"

If we are not married—we are still **called to love** like Christ; to **care for** people as He did; to **forgive** always; to **serve with humility**; to **encourage** whenever; and to always put the needs of others **ahead of our own**.

Our study was about what a Christian marriage *should* be—and about what **changes** will take place in our **heart**; in our **home**; and with our **friends** when we *pattern for our relationships*—by **Ephesians 5:21** *Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ.*

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