

Calvary Chapel of El Cajon Women's Bible Studies

Ephesians 5:22-33

Lesson 12

Continuing his challenge to believers to *walk worthy of our calling*, Paul turns to the marriage relationship. Paul relates the analogy of the oneness of Christ and the church to the oneness of a husband and his wife. These verses are viewed by some as the most challenging verses in all of Scripture. As you study, read these instructions as coming from the God who gave everything to make you His own and wants only good for you.

DAY ONE: Read Ephesians 5:22-33

1. Read through this week's verses using both your Observation Worksheet and another Bible translation or paraphrase. After reading through these verses, what would you say to someone if they asked you what they were about?

a. Ephesians 5:22-33 is one paragraph division. List below the subject(s) covered in this section.

How would you title this section? Record your title on the **Chapter & Paragraph Division Titles Chart** provided with your Observation Worksheet.

Now record a title for the fifth chapter of Ephesians.

2. At the right-hand side of the same chart are columns labeled **Key Word** and **Symbol**. They have been provided for you to record the key words and the symbol you have chosen to represent each one. Record the key words listed below and their symbols on the chart.

Jesus (Christ/Lord)

New to this lesson: *wives, husbands, love, church, and submit/subject/respect* (mark in the same way)

Term of conclusion: *therefore*

Now, using the symbols you have chosen, mark each of the key words each time they are used in Ephesians 5:22-33. Remember, as you mark the words for *Jesus* to mark any personal pronouns that refer to Him. You do not need to mark every word that refers Him - only those that you feel are significant.

- Paul chose to address the responsibilities of *wives* and *husbands* to one another in this section. Using your marked references to *wives* and *husbands*, make a list of the commands that relate to each role.

| Verse | Wives | Verse | Husbands |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|
| | | | |

DAY TWO: Read Ephesians 5:22-24

- Our last lesson closed with the instruction *submitting to one another in the fear of God* (verse 21). The Greek word translated *submit* has also been translated as *subject* or *obey*. Before looking at each *wife's* responsibility to *submit* to her husband, look up the following verses and record others who are required to submit and who they are required to submit to.

Luke 2:51 (*He is Jesus*)

Romans 13:1

Colossians 3:20 (this is a slightly different Greek word)

Titus 3:1

James 4:7

1 Peter 2:13

1 Peter 5:5

Challenge: Define the word *submit* (or *submission*) using a Bible dictionary.

- Wives* are told to *submit* to their husbands five times in the New Testament. Look up each reference and record them word for word below:

Ephesians 5:22

Ephesians 5:24

Colossians 3:18

Titus 2:5

1 Peter 3:1

- Scan through each verse above and (1) circle the phrases that are similar and (2) underline the phrases that are different.

- b. Summarize what you discovered.
3. Often *wives* question why they are commanded to *submit*. Ephesians 5:23 gives us an answer. What does it say?
- a. Describe how you view *Christ as the head of the church*.
- 1.) Using what you have written above, describe the *husband's* role as *head of the wife*.
4. What conclusion does Paul arrive at in Ephesians 5:24?
- a. In what ways/circumstances is the church *subject to Christ*?
- b. Describe what the church's (your) behavior should be toward Christ.
- 1.) In what ways should this be similar to a *wife's* behavior towards her husband?

Challenge ☺ : According to Ephesians 5:24, in what situations should a *wife be subject to her own husband*?

DAY THREE: Read Ephesians 5:25-30

1. *Husbands* are certainly not without their responsibility. This next portion of our lesson will deal with their role. Since the *husband*, like Christ, is the *head*, what instruction is given to him in Ephesians 5:25?
- a. What is the example of Christ as recorded in this verse?
2. The next two verses (26,27) begin with the same word. What is it?
- a. The word *that* indicates the reasons why Christ *loved us and gave Himself for us*. What two reasons are provided?

- b. Summarizing and paraphrasing, Christ *gave Himself for the church*, doing all that was necessary, that He might have us as His own. In what ways would a godly desire to have a woman for his own, provoke a man to genuine, godly *love*?
3. Looking at the beginning of verse 28, how are *husbands to love their own wives*?
 - a. *For a man is actually loving himself when he loves his wife* (Ephesians 5:28b NLT). The *husband* should see his *wife* as an extension or part of himself. How does this relate to Christ's attitude toward His church?
4. Two ways that Christ expresses His love for the church are recorded in verse 29. What are they?
 - a. Isaiah 40:11 and Matthew 23:37 reveal God's desire toward His own. What picture comes to your mind or what feelings arise in your heart as you read these verses?
5. Ephesians 5:30 summarizes the truth husbands should remember that will provoke *love* for their wives. What is it?

DAY FOUR: Read Ephesians 5:31-32

1. Because, according to the previous verses, *the husband and wife* should view themselves as *one*, what steps does Ephesians 5:31 tell the *man* to do?
 - a. What, practically, do you think *leaving father and mother* entails?
 - b. What, practically, do you think *being joined to his wife* entails?
2. Jesus quoted this same reference (Genesis 2:24) in Matthew 19:5. What does He add in Matthew 19:6?
 - a. From these verses, what do you think God wants us to understand about the marriage relationship?
3. How is the bond between *husband* and *wife* greater than the bond between parent and child?

4. What does Paul say about all of this in Ephesians 5:32?
 - a. In what way is *Christ*, as head of the *church*, an example to the *husband*?
 - b. In what way is the *church*, as subject to *Christ*, an example to the *wife*?
 - c. Read and meditate upon Revelation 19:7,8. Express Christ's heart for His bride as you see it in these verses.

DAY FIVE: Read Ephesians 5:33

1. Whether or not we fully understand the *mystery* of the previous verses, Paul wants to be sure we understand the practical application. What instruction to *husbands* in verse 28 is repeated in verse 33?
 - a. What does 1 Peter 3:7 teach regarding the *husband's* attitude towards his wife?
 - 1.) What are the consequences for disregarding this?
 - a.) Do these same consequences apply to a *wife* who disregards God's commands to her? Why or why not?
2. Note the phrase *in particular*. Paul is reminding *husbands* that he is not referring to a group of people (the church), but is speaking to each and every *husband*. This phrase should also be applied to the instruction to *wives* in this verse. What does Paul instruct *each wife in particular* to do?
 - a. Describe the behavior of a *wife* who *respects* her *husband*.
 - b. What advice would you give to a Christian wife who told you that her husband should earn her *respect*?

DAY SIX: Review Ephesians 5:22-33

1. What similarities can we draw from the relationship of the husband and wife to the relationship of Christ and the church?
 - a. In what ways are they different?
2. What are the responsibilities of the husband and wife toward each other?
3. How should both husband and wife model themselves after Christ?
4. Why would unselfishness be an essential part of a Christian marriage?
5. How does a healthy Christian marriage relationship honor the Lord?
6. Share some ways this lesson has personally challenged you.

*You should be known for the beauty that comes from within,
the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God.
That is the way the holy women of old made themselves beautiful.
They trusted God and accepted the authority of their husbands.*

- 1 Peter 3:4-5 NLT