

2. Husband to his wife: *His body is his wife!* Remember, as we were made members of the body of Christ through baptism, *so a man and a woman become one flesh through marriage!* Therefore, **as** Christ showed extraordinary love for His body, *the Church*, **so** a husband – *out of reverence for Christ* – is called to show extraordinary love for his body, *thus his wife!*

Summary Statements

1. ³¹ **“Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast [be faithfully devoted] to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.”** // God is calling us to think about unity:
- The ONE body of Christ, *which includes Christ and all believers!*
 - The ONE body of marriage, thus ONE flesh, *which includes a husband and his wife!*
2. ³² **This mystery is profound [great, deep], and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church.** // *So one flesh in marriage is easier to understand than the deep and eternal relationship between Christ and the Church!*
3. ³³ **However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.** // As ones who are saved through Jesus,

let us believe, practice, and benefit from God’s Holy Word!

Conclusion

Wives are to submit; *husbands* are to love. However, many take this *negative* attitude: I will submit *as much as he loves* OR I will love *as much as she submits*.

Dearly beloved, that attitude is *not* God’s design for your marriage! Instead, God calls *each person*, **✦**guided by *His Word* and **✦**empowered by *His Spirit*, to do his or her own part – *regardless of the other person*. Doing so honors God and His Word!

Here is a more practical reason: As Christian wives *completely* submit, so Christian husbands will be *encouraged* to completely love AND as Christian husbands *completely* love, so Christian wives will be *encouraged* to completely submit!

May the Triune God transform every marriage into a one flesh relationship that knows and follow His wonderful design!

Pastor Green

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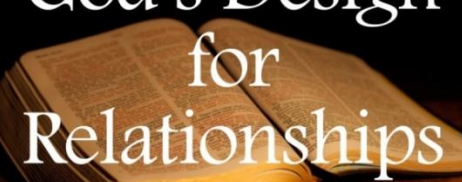
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Husbands & Wives

God’s Design for Relationships



Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV

Introduction

Dear friends in Christ: How are YOUR relationships doing? We all have many... **✦**between *us and God*, **✦**within *the congregation to which we belong*, **✦**between *husband and wife*, **✦**etc. When we proceed in our relationships according to our **old sinful nature**, *they tend to be a mess*; for example: **“wives seek to rule their husbands and refuse [to lovingly submit]; husbands tyrannize their wives often to the point of enslaving them”** (Lenski, 628).

This brochure:

- ✓ It is for those who are in possession of God’s gift of eternal life, *which we have freely received by grace through faith in Jesus!*

