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

- 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:
 - a. The ONE body of Christ, which includes Christ and all believers!
 - b. 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!
- 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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Husbands & Wives



Ephesians 5:22-33 ESV

Introduction

Dear friends in Christ: <u>How are YOUR</u> <u>relationships doing</u>? 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!

- ✓ It is for those who believe the Bible to be the very Word of God; therefore, hearing it or reading it, we believe it is true and know it is best!
- ✓ It is for ♦current or future husbands and wives, ♦those who believe God's ways are best, and ♦those who want to discover what God says about the relationship between husbands and wives.

Four Things

One is certain, three are uncertain:

- One of the four is from Christ to us; it is certain because Christ has already fully accomplished it!
- The other three are commanded of us, but they are uncertain: Will we do them or will we sin against God?

Picture two bodies:

- + The first one is the body of Christ!
 - \circ Christ is the <u>head</u> \longrightarrow
 - All believers are the body
- The second one is the one flesh relationship between a husband and wife!
 - The husband is the <u>head</u>
 The wife is the <u>body</u>

As you go through Ephesians 5:22-33, *keep those pictures in mind*!

The title of this section identifies a parallel: **As** the Church is called to submit to Christ, **so** a wife is called to submit to her husband!

²² Wives, <u>submit to</u> [volunteer to obey] your own husbands, as to the Lord. [Why?] ²³ For [Because] the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ²⁴ Now as the church <u>submits to</u> [willingly obeys] Christ, so also wives should submit [willingly obey] in everything to their husbands.

- <u>Christ to His body</u>: His body is the Church; in other words, *all believers*. He is not only the head of His body, *but also the Savior of His body!*
- 2. Wife to her husband: Her head is her husband; the Bible says "that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God" (1 Cor. 11:1 ESV). Therefore, as believers out of reverence for Christ should, in everything, willingly obey their head who is Christ, so a wife out of reverence for Christ should, in everything, willingly obey her head who is her husband. That is GOD'S DESIGN, so let us be certain that His ways are truly best!

The title of this section identifies a parallel: **As** Christ loved the Church, **so** a husband is called to love his wife!

²⁵ Husbands, love [be loval to, highly regard] your wives, as Christ loved the church [all believers, they are His bride] and gave himself up for [on behalf of] her, ²⁶ that he might sanctify her [make her holy], having cleansed her by the washing of [the] water with the word [baptism], ²⁷ so that he might present the church [all believers] to himself in splendor [glory, wonder], without spot [stain, blemish] or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ²⁸ In the same way husbands should love $[\dot{\alpha}\gamma\alpha\pi\tilde{\alpha}\nu]$ their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.²⁹ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ³⁰ because we are members of his body.

 <u>Christ to His body</u>: If we make an honest comparison between us and God's Word, we will surely admit that we are all filthy sinners[®]. Since that is true, Christ took radical action to live, suffer, and die for us! Then, through Holy Baptism, we were clothed with the righteous life of Christ. In other words, Christ, our head, demonstrated great love for us, His body!