

- a. **(28-30) As Their Own Bodies:** We love our bodies like this: When hungry – *we provide food*; when cold – *we provide warmth*; and so on. Remember, *husbands*, God has placed us into a *special one-flesh relationship* with our wives. Therefore, as our wives have needs – *we are to provide*; if her life is threatened – *we are to defend*, even to the point of laying down our very own lives, *even as we would for ourselves!*

### 3: Deeply United

**31** “For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be united to his wife, and the two will become one flesh.” **32** This is a profound mystery-- but I am talking about Christ and the church. **33** However, each one of you also must love his wife as he loves himself, and the wife must respect her husband.

- a. **Christian Husbands and Christian Wives:** Redeemed, forgiven, and holy in God’s sight, having become one flesh, and *deeply united with each other*, may God continually enable us to *actively* give to our spouses, *even as we give to ourselves*, ✚love, ✚respect, ✚forgiveness, ✚encouragement, and ✚care!
- b. **Christ and the Church:** Christ is our head, *we are His body*; therefore, ✚He has made us holy, ✚He continues to nourish us with Word

and Sacrament, and ✚He will strengthen us to *daily apply* God’s Word to our marriages!

### 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 intention! Instead, God calls *each person*, blessed *with His Spirit* and *His guidance*, 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 *Christ-centered Christian marriage!* Amen!

### A Standing Offer

*Pastor would welcome the opportunity to help you with your marriage!* Please contact him using the information in the block below.

### Connect and Benefit

**Website:** [BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com](http://BethlehemLutheranChurchParma.com)  
**Podcast:** “Benefit from the Bible”  
**Facebook:** “Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma”  
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(Last Update: 1-15)

## Wives and Husbands



***Their Relationship with Each Other!***  
**Ephesians 5:22-33 NIV**

### Introduction

*Wives and Husbands – Their Relationship with Each Other!* Is that important? *Most definitely!* Those with a *good relationship* rejoice in their bond of marriage, while those with a *bad relationship* usually choose the way of divorce – *even though it shatters their lifelong vows!*

Have you vowed to: ✚live in holy marriage according to the Word of God, ✚love, comfort, and honor each other, ✚keep each other in sickness and in health, ✚forsake all others, and ✚remain as husband and wife as long as you both shall live? Those vows ARE based on God’s Word, *but are NOT easy to keep*; therefore, God wants to help, guide, and bless every aspect of your marriage! *Keep reading to reap the benefits!*

For all who ✚ are married, ✚ will be married, or ✚ have contact with people who are married, Ephesians 5:22-33 has blessed instructions. The overall passage lays out this important parallel:

**As Christ loves the church  
and the church submits to Christ,  
so husbands are to love their wives  
and wives are to submit to their husbands!**

Furthermore, Paul is addressing *Christian wives* and *Christian husbands*. So what does it mean to be a Christian? *Christians belong to Christ!* They belong to Him because ✚ He put on flesh and blood, ✚ He lived a sinless life in their stead, and ✚ He bore their sins and eternal punishment, *thus He purchased them with His holy, precious blood!* Christians know that Christ is ✚ the resurrection and the life, ✚ the only way to the Father, and ✚ the One through whom they have been forgiven and set free. Therefore, *filled with the Spirit and with joy*, they desire to ✚ live Christ-centered lives and ✚ have Christ-centered marriages. To such people, *God gives this instruction:*

## 1: Wives ➔ to Their Husbands

**NIV Ephesians 5:22** “Wives, submit to your husbands as to the Lord. **23** For the husband is the head of the wife as Christ is the head of the church, his body, of which he is the Savior. **24** Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”

- a. **(22) Not All Women to All Men:** Paul is describing a *God-pleasing relationship within a Christian marriage*; therefore, he is *not* talking about how *all women* are to relate to *all men*, but only how *each wife* is to relate to *her own husband*.
- b. **(23) God Has Placed One over Another:** 1 Corinthians 11:3 has this order: God ➔ Christ ➔ man ➔ woman. God wants all Christian husbands and wives to live in harmony; therefore, in His wisdom, He has placed the man over the woman. *It's not that women are inferior to men*, even as Christ is not inferior to God; instead, God wants us to understand and follow His ways, *knowing they are always best!*
- c. **(24) Submission is Voluntary and Joyful:** Think about how the church, *(which includes only true believers)* submits to Christ. The church does so *voluntarily* – because it knows the ways of Christ are always best, and it does so *joyfully* – because it is grateful for God's precious gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation! Therefore, “as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit to their husbands in everything.”



## 2: Husbands ➔ to Their Wives

**25** Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her **26** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, **27** and to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless. **28** In this same way, husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. **29** After all, no one ever hated his own body, but he feeds and cares for it, just as Christ does the church-- **30** for we are members of his body.

3. **(25-27) As Christ Loved the Church:** Husbands, *next to God* – whom we are called to love with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength (Mk. 12:30) – we are to love our wives “as Christ loved the church.” And how did Christ show His love for the church? By voluntarily becoming the “*atoning sacrifice for our sins.*” (NIV 1 Jn. 4:10) By Jesus’ saving work He made the church – *which includes all true believers* – holy, radiant, clean – *without any stain or wrinkle or blemish of sin!* Jesus described His ultimate act of love when He said: “Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends.” (NAS Jn. 15:13) As the church is the *body of Christ*, so Christ laid down His life for His body. Fellow-husbands, as Jesus laid down His life for us, so *God calls us to show extraordinary love for our wives!*