

Family Worship Guide

Sunday, August 14, 2016

Ephesians 5:22-33

“Being Married in Christ”

²² Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ²³ For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself *being* the Savior of the body. ²⁴ But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, ²⁶ so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ²⁷ that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless. ²⁸ So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; ²⁹ for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, ³⁰ because we are members of His body. ³¹ For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and shall be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh. ³² This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. ³³ Nevertheless, each individual among you also is to love his own wife even as himself, and the wife must *see to it* that she respects her husband.

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION

Getting Started

- Which of these TV families reflects your family most accurately: Leave it to Beaver? The Flintstones? The Brady Bunch? The Cosby Show? The Waltons? The Simpsons?

Going Deeper

- *Men*: How do you feel about the standard for husbands in verses 25 and 28? *Women*: How about the standard for wives in verses 22 and 23?
- In practical terms, what does it mean for a wife to submit to her husband? What implication does ‘Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church’ have (v. 25)?

Bringing it Home

- If you are currently married, in what ways do you see your own marriage relationship reflecting the truth of this passage of Scripture? In what ways can you improve your marriage relationship?
- Take a moment to consider the beauty of the marriage relationship described in this passage of Scripture. In what ways does this differ from the modern-day cultural view of marriage?¹

¹ Questions adapted from *Serendipity Bible for Groups*, 4th Ed. (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1998), 1629.