



The Gospel Displayed in Male and Female

20th in the “Ephesians” Series

Ephesians 5:21

July 5, 2026

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage, we learn how our submission to one another displays the gospel in our gendered roles.

- 1) Our text today and the verses that follow command us to practice a very difficult act for our modern world and culture: submission.
- 2) This command for mutual submission is clearly asymmetrical (i.e., uneven, different in expression).
- 3) An overview of Ephesians 5:22-33: God designed marriage to display the gospel, and specifically the postures and practices of Jesus.

Summary: The gospel is gloriously displayed by every Christian marriage that practices God’s design for male and female complementarity, in which husbands and wives relate to one another in their assigned roles that reflect the sacrificial and submissive roles Jesus himself obeyed in his earthly ministry.

Ephesians 5:23: *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.*

The husband reflects the “head” of Jesus and represents Christ's sacrifice for another – denying positional rights to love his wife.

The wife reflects the “body” of Jesus and represents Christ's submission to another – denying personal rights to respect her husband.

Response

Lord, help us to submit to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Sunday Text Questions

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Read the text aloud and discuss any significant observations or issues that need clarification together.

- 1) What comes to mind when you hear the word “submit,” and why? Why is submission such a debated issue in our culture?

- 2) What does it look like in practice to “submit to one another out of reverence for Christ?”

- 3) How can Paul command submission generally to all and yet in the very next verse (v. 22) command asymmetrical submission (i.e., uneven, different in expression)?

- 4) How does this verse provide a necessary transition to vv. 22-33? What does it look like to submit to one another when God assigns to us different relational “roles” (e.g., husbands and wives)?

- 5) What do you think is the proper Christian way to think about the biblical command to submit? How can we make sure our culture’s aversion to submission is not directing how we live?

- 6) Besides the Lord, to whom are you required to submit (e.g., government, work, home, etc.)? Does your submission to Christ help you submit to the other authorities God has placed over you?

- 7) Spend some time praying together. Ask the Lord to open your hearts and minds as we spend the next few weeks looking at God’s design for a Christian marriage.

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week’s text: Genesis 1:26-28 (Mon); Genesis 2:19-25 (Tues); 1 Corinthians 11:7-12 (Wed); 1 Peter 3:1-7 (Thurs); 1 Timothy 2:8-15 (Fri).