



The Gospel Ministry of a Wife, Part 1

21st in the “Ephesians” Series

Ephesians 5:22-24

July 19, 2026

Pastor Mickey Klink

Introduction

In this passage we learn biblical principles of the ministry of a wife in God’s design for marriage.

- 1) Since this verse in our culture today is, at the very least, an uncomfortable command, or more likely, highly offensive, Christians must take seriously this tension as we sit under the word of God.
- 2) A Christian woman submits herself to her husband as worship of and obedience to Jesus (v. 22).
(a) This command is not a blanket statement to all women in relation to all men but to the specific relationship between a wife and her husband.
(b) This command is given by the Lord to wives directly, to submit themselves to their husbands.
(c) A wife’s submission to her husband is a Spirit-filled (Eph 5:18) integration of her ontological equality, the full use of her many gifts and talents, and her obedience to his position as her “head.”
(d) When a wife submits herself to her husband, she is ultimately submitting to her Lord Jesus Christ.
- 3) The reason a wife submits to her husband is because God assigned the wife to reflect Christ’s “body” in her marital role and the husband to reflect Christ’s “head” in his marital role (vv. 23-24).

“The woman, in relation to her husband, is a figure of Christ the body. As one flesh with the man, she is his glory [1 Cor 11:7] and the [goal] of his affections. As such, the rightly ordered life of the woman manifests human majesty and splendor, defined not primarily in terms of ‘external’ appearances but by the ‘imperishable beauty’ of the heart (1 Pet 3:3-4). The human disposition of devotion toward God is revealed in the woman’s sanctified life in relation to the man. She reveals to man [displays to the world] what man is in relation to God. In short, this means that the woman is to live in relation to her husband after the pattern of the church’s love for Christ, laying aside any and all ambitions for self-glorification for the one who has already laid down his life for her....’ Lyndon Jost, *Transfiguring Headship*

Pastoral Reflection

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 makes this text either embarrassing or offensive in our culture today?
- 2) What is your response to this text? How have you seen Christian couples honor this command in their marriages? If you are married, what has obeying this command looked like in your marriage?
- 3) What are the significances of the qualifications in v. 22: “*wives*, (you) submit,” “to your *own* husbands,” and “as you do *to the Lord*?”
- 4) How helpful do you find the biblical symbolism presented in v. 23, that the husband is assigned to be Christ’s head and the wife is assigned to be Christ’s body in the one-flesh bodily union of marriage?
- 5) Since the submission of a wife is supposed to look like the church’s submission to Christ (v. 24), what does that teach us about what a wife’s submission to her husband should look like?
- 6) Not everyone agrees with the way our church (or this week’s sermon) understands this biblical command. Egalitarians, for example, think that the command is culturally conditioned and does not serve as a timeless truth. What convictions do you hold regarding this text and its command?
- 7) What are some clear and specific ways a wife can obey this command and live it out in her marriage? And what role might husbands play to assist his wife in her assigned role?

Further study this week: Passages related to the message of this week’s text: Proverbs 31:10 (Mon); Proverbs 18:22 (Tues); Proverbs 12:4 (Wed); Titus 2:3-5 (Thurs); Colossians 3:18 (Fri).