

Family Worship Guide

Sunday, August 21, 2016

Ephesians 5:22-33

“Being the Church 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

- From this passage of Scripture, of what other relationship is marriage symbolic? In what ways is marriage symbolic of this other more important relationship?

Going Deeper

- According to Scripture, who is the head of the Church? By what authority does the head of the Church possess this position? By what actions does the head of the Church deserve this position of authority?
- In your own words, how would you explain the central, biblical purpose of a Christian marriage? How does this relate to the symbolism discussed in the opening question?

Bringing it Home

- Take a moment to consider the beauty of the relationship between Christ and the Church described in this passage of Scripture. How has Christ demonstrated His love?
- What is the ultimate purpose of the relationship between Christ and His church as seen in this passage of Scripture? In other words, for what purpose has Christ shown such profound love for His church? What do you suppose He expects to accomplish in the lives of His followers?¹

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