

# Family Worship Guide

Sunday, August 7, 2016

## Ephesians 5:22-33

### “Marriage as a Type of Christ and the Church”

<sup>22</sup> Wives, *be subject* to your own husbands, as to the Lord. <sup>23</sup> 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. <sup>24</sup> But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives *ought to be* to their husbands in everything.

<sup>25</sup> Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her, <sup>26</sup> so that He might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, <sup>27</sup> 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. <sup>28</sup> So husbands ought also to love their own wives as their own bodies. He who loves his own wife loves himself; <sup>29</sup> for no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ also *does* the church, <sup>30</sup> because we are members of His body. <sup>31</sup> 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. <sup>32</sup> This mystery is great; but I am speaking with reference to Christ and the church. <sup>33</sup> 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

- How would you describe American football to someone who had never before seen a game? What other similar activities might you use as illustrations to help you explain?

### Going Deeper

- From verses 22-33, how many instances do you notice where the Apostle Paul compares the marriage relationship to the relationship between Christ and His church?
- For what reasons do you suppose the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to continually remind his readers of the connection between Christ’s love for His church and the love a husband should show for his wife?

### 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 relationship of Christ and His church. Then consider the beauty of a marriage relationship that demonstrates this biblical truth. In what ways does a marriage like this contribute to the overall health of the Christian family?<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Questions written by Dr. Mike McCormick, Green Hill Baptist Church, West Columbia, SC.