

"One Church, Under Christ"
Ephesians 5:21-33 –NASB

Illustration: Waiting for my dad's hand

For Christ so loves His church...

- What is this passage about?

Ephesians 5:21-33²¹ and be subject to one another in the fear of 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.

- What is Christ doing for the church?
 - head of the church
 - Savior of the body
 - loved the church
 - gave Himself up for her
 - sanctify her,
 - having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word,
 - 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
 - nourishes and cherishes
- What does marriage have to do with Christ and the church?
 - It is a window into how much Christ loves His church
 - *Application:* Look at marriages and be astounded at how much Christ loves the church – and you are a part of the church!

...that He submitted to the will of His Father

- Mutual subjection
 - "Be subject to," "submit" (Eph. 5:21)
 - "The more we understand Jesus, the more we understand true submission and trust" (John Kuebler)

Philippians 2:5-11 ⁵ Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶ who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, *and* being made in the likeness of men. ⁸ Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name, ¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL

BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth,¹¹ and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

- The roles within the Trinity, God in three Persons.
- *Application:* To whom are you subjecting yourself? Who do you ultimately trust?
- Wives: a place of prominence (Eph. 5:22-24)
 - The startling cultural context – wives had no rights, were household managers and easily divorced
 - The verb “Be subject to” (Eph. 5:21, 24)
 - Emphasis of the text: BE SUBJECT TO ONE ANOTHER...wives to your husbands...**CHURCH BE SUBJECT TO CHRIST!**
 - Wives take first place in pushing back the effects of the fall
 - *Genesis 3:16* “To the woman God said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.””
 - *Application:* Wives lead us in submission
 - The beauty in submission for marriages, for the church, for us interpersonally
- Husbands: a great calling (Eph. 5:25)
 - “²⁵ Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself up for her,”
 - Be Jesus to your wives
 - Most husbands would easily die for their wives, it’s just the loving her daily that’s hard.

For Christ so loves the church...

- Church: our great calling
 - Know God’s covenant love. Be God’s new creation community. Do God’s calling.
 - *Application:* Children. College students. Alianza.
 - This is really hard relationally, emotionally, linguistically, financially...
 - Who do we trust?
- The greater context
 - Ephesians 1-3: “What is true!” The indicatives. A building of trust.
 - You are loved. You are adopted. You are chosen. You are called. You are in Christ. You are in Christ. You are in Christ. You are loved beyond all that you could imagine.
 - Ephesians 4-6: “What to do!” The imperatives. Subjecting our lives to Christ’s will.
 - Walk! Walk in a manner fitting to the calling to which you have been called. Walk in love. Walk as children of the light. Walk in wisdom.
 - Be filled with the Spirit
 - Speak to one another in Biblically refreshing ways
 - Sing in your hearts
 - Always give thanks
 - *Application:* What if we trusted in Christ enough to live this way? How would it affect our friendships? Marriages? Interactions within the church? Interactions with those outside the church?
 - Stand firm! (Eph. 6:10-18)

...that He submitted to the will of His Father

- We are a beautiful bride that angels long to see. Creation groans in eager expectation waiting for the Church in her fullness to be revealed.
- We love an extravagant bridegroom.
 - The story of the prophet and the harlot.