

“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 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.