

Eph 5:18–33 (ESV) And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery, but be filled with the Spirit, ⁽¹⁹⁾ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ⁽²⁰⁾ giving thanks always and for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ⁽²¹⁾ submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. ⁽²²⁾ Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ⁽²³⁾ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ⁽²⁴⁾ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands. ⁽²⁵⁾ Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, ⁽²⁶⁾ that he might sanctify her, having cleansed her by the washing of water with the word, ⁽²⁷⁾ so that he might present the church to himself in splendor, without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish. ⁽²⁸⁾ In the same way husbands should love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. ⁽²⁹⁾ For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as Christ does the church, ⁽³⁰⁾ because we are members of his body. ⁽³¹⁾ “Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.” ⁽³²⁾ This mystery is profound, and I am saying that it refers to Christ and the church. ⁽³³⁾ However, let each one of you love his wife as himself, and let the wife see that she respects her husband.

REVIEW

1. **Seen that the Spirit-filled life is a life that is controlled by the Spirit**
 - A. A life that is lived in submission – obedience to him
2. **Then Paul points out how being filled with the Spirit will affect our relationships**
 - A. Our relationship with God will be affected
 - 1). We will live lives of worship and be filled with gratitude
 - B. Our relationship with others will be affected
 - 1). We will be humble and willing to submit – not pushing forward our agenda
 - C. The wives relationship with the husband will be affected
 - 1). She will be willing to submit to his leadership
 - D. The husbands relationship with the wife will be affected
 - 1). He will begin to love her like Christ loved the church

Transition: We didn't have time to finish the wife so take a couple minutes to wrap that up

 - A. Then we'll move to the husband and spend the next two weeks there

I. THE WIFE'S SUBMISSION

Eph 5:22–24 (ESV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, as to the Lord. ⁽²³⁾ For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior. ⁽²⁴⁾ Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should submit in everything to their husbands.

I have five reasons why the wife submits then an encouragement – quick reminder

1. The wife submits because she understands the Lord has commanded it

Eph 5:22 (ESV) Wives, submit to your own husbands, *as to the Lord*.

- A. She submits to her husband as an act of submission to the Lord – an act of worship and love to him
 - 1). This is the motivation behind her submission – it is unto the Lord

2. The wife submits because she understands there is a divinely given ranking

- A. The word submission is a military word = to come under rank
 - 1). So the wife is responding to that order she sees in God's book

Eph 5:23 (ESV) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

3. The wife submits because she is focusing on the big picture

- A. She understands this submission is God's design for marriage
 - 1). Therefore to live this out pleases him and brings him glory
 - 2). Because she loves her savior she desires to please him by submitting like this
- B. She understands the family will function correctly when this order is adhered to – God's design

4. The wife submits because she sees that modeled by the church

Eph 5:23 (ESV) For the husband is the head of the wife even as Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Savior.

- A. This point is clear – Christ and the church is the model for the marriage relationship
 - 1). Just as Christ is the head of the church and his people respond to him
 - 2). The husband is the head of the family – and the wife is to respond to him

5. What she sees modeled by the church is an extensive submission

Eph 5:24 (ESV) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should *submit in everything* to their husbands.

- A. We need to find the proper balance in this – does he really mean everything?
 - 1). Saw last week there are definite limitations to this submission
- B. If husband asks wife to sin or go against her Christian conscience she must say “No”

Model is the Apostles: Acts 4:19 (NIV) But Peter and John replied, "Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God.
- C. But wives must not take advantage of this
 - 1). There is a big difference in saying “No” because it goes against clear Biblical teaching
And saying “No” just because you don’t feel like it
 - a). When you don’t feel like it – submit as an act of obedience unto the Lord
 - b). This command wouldn’t be necessary if you only did it when you felt like it
- D. Obedience really has very little to do with feelings – it is responding to truth

2 Ti 4:2 (ESV) preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching.

 - 1). Timothy this is what you’re called to do – so do it when you feel like it and when you don’t

Thought: Wives this can be a bit frightening – we all want control – follow another I don’t know
What if he leads in the wrong direction – makes mistakes

- A. Peter speaks of this submission in an interesting way

1 Pet 3:6 (NIV) like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her master. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

 - 1). There is no indication she called him Master in public
 - a). Many commentators believe this is speaking of a respect she had for him in her heart
She realized he was the head of the family and responded as such
- B. But why does it say “not giving way to fear”
 - 1). Because fear will stop the submission – make you cling to control

Question: How do we fight fear? A reminder from last week – it is through truth and the promises

6. Submission without fear

- A. The wife believes that obedience will bring great blessing – God reveal himself in a greater way

Jn 14:21 (ESV) Whoever has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me. And he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and *manifest myself to him.*”

 - 1). Submit trusting that it will not reduce your life but enhance it – God will reveal himself
- B. The wife believes submission will bring greater provision of everything she needs

Ps 23:1 (ESV) The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

 - 1). You can fear – if I submit will he make mistakes and we will go without
Submit to him as an act of obedience to the Lord – trusting him to provide all you need
 - 2). I love the way Jesus puts it in Matthew 6 – my life verse

Mt 6:33 (ESV) But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

- a). Put him first by obeying his will and everything else you need will be given to you
- C. So we fight fear of submission by preaching truth to ourselves – obedience is always the right way
 - 1). It opens up doors to blessings – but disobedience closes them
- Transition:** So ladies you submit as an act of obedience to the Lord – trusting you never lose when you obey
- A. Seeing the results of obedience – the blessings makes it a lot easier
- B. Fortunately for the wife Paul continues to the Husbands part
 - 1). He is commanded to live in a way that makes submission easier
 - 2). Just as we submit to the Lord because we know he loves us and has our best in mind
The husband is to love their wife in the same way – making her submission easier
- C. Before we start – let’s be honest - this section is a challenge to all men in this age of selfishness
 - 1). To love our wife as Christ loved the church – that is radical
 - 2). This is a high calling – that is going to take the power of the Spirit = Spirit-filled
 - a). It is also a command – therefore it is essential we respond accordingly
 - b). We can’t expect blessing in our life if we live in disobedience – don’t care
- E. Remember this is how *Spirit-filled relationships* look – this can only be lived out when Spirit-filled

II. THE SPIRIT-FILLED HUSBAND LOVES HIS WIFE

Eph 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

1. This clear call to sacrificial love was a revolutionary thought

- A. Marriage in the ancient world was one sided – the man mattered – the wife didn’t
Demosthenes said about the man: “We have courtesans (prostitutes) for the sake of pleasure; we have concubines for the sake of daily cohabitation; *we have wives for the purpose of having children legitimately, and of having a faithful guardian for all our household affairs.*”
 - 1). The wife was not for love – or enjoyment – she produced children and managed household affairs
- B. Adultery was expected of the men of this day – wife tried that – she’d be put to death
 - 1). She could be divorced for any reason – for no reason – even put to death like a slave
Kent Hughes in his commentary to Ephesians: Thus Paul’s radical call to marital love was a bare-knuckled swing at the domestic ethics of his time — much as it is today. Taken seriously, the naked force of these words, “love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her” is staggering! There is no honest Christian husband who can hear or read these words and not feel the punch.

The Revolutionary Command: Husbands Love Your Wife

Eph 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her,

1. This passage has clearly given the man power in the home

Eph 5:24 (ESV) Now as the church submits to Christ, so also wives should *submit in everything* to their husbands.

- A. But Scripture tells us that power is to be a balanced power – governed by love
 - 1). The way Paul told Timothy to use power
2 Ti 1:7 (ESV) for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of *power and love and self-control.*
 - a). Our power is to be tempered by love and self-control
 - b). It is never to be used to intimidate – not to be used selfishly
“It is not the power of a dictator or a little tyrant, it is not the idea of a man who arrogates to himself certain rights, and tramples upon his wife’s feelings to sit in the home as a dictator”
- B. This is power given to the man to use responsibly – *for the wife’s benefit*
 - 1). This is leadership that is to be characterized by service and sacrifice

2. Scripture hands a safety net to the wife

- A. Just like when a believer submits to love when they submit to Christ
It is the same thing when the wife submits to her husband – she is to be submitting to love

Question: But what kind of love – what does that mean? Let's define it

- A. The Greek uses 4 words for love – each would require a different application

Love Defined

1. **Eros** – the word for erotic love – a love driven by desire
2. **Storge** - refers to family love – the kind of love between a parent and child
3. **Philia** - speaks of a brotherly friendship and affection - fondness

- A. It is the highest love of which man, without God's help, is capable of.

4. **Agape** (our word) - is an unconditional love

- A. Eros, storge and philia each speak about love that is felt - emotional
- 1). These describe a love that arises from the heart usually based on something in the recipient
It is a response to something we see attractive in them
 - a). I love you because your beautiful – I'm responding to that
 - b). I love you because you're funny – make me feel good – I'm attracted to that
 - c). I love you because your kind – merciful – gentle – share my interests
 - 1a). It is me responding to something lovable in you
 - 2). A healthy marriage will have all these loves too
- B. But Agape is higher than that – it is God's love shown to others *even when there is nothing lovable*

Agape Defined

1. Agape is an **unconditional love** that is not based on the recipient's merit

- A. Therefore (listen) *it's a choice – a decision – a matter of the mind more than the emotions*
- B. So important to see because we think of love primarily in terms of emotions
But Agape is a choice to love even when the emotions are contrary – when we don't want to love
- 1). It is a call to love when the recipient is very unlovable at that moment
- C. In Romans 5:8 Paul shows us how Agape acts
Ro 5:8 (ESV) but God shows his love (Agape) for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.
- D. So we love on those days she's sweet as pie – and on those days it's more like vinegar
- 1). We love on those days she's looking fine – “How you doin?”
AND on those days it's a worn-out robe - curlers and cold cream – uhhhhhh...

Thought: This love doesn't need merit – beauty – sweetness to respond too

It just loves – it acts for the others good – regardless of how they are acting

Transition: Paul is very clear on where we can see what kind of love this is

Christ Is the Example of A Christian Husband's Love.

Eph 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, *as Christ loved the church* and gave himself up for her,

1. Jesus love for the church is the pattern of how to love our wives

- A. This drives home the point it is love given to the undeserving – it is how he loved me!
- 1). One of the things the Lord does that breaks my heart – blesses me after failure

- a). When I feel the least deserving – he visits and blesses – I can’t believe it
- 2). That is the example of how we are to love our wives
 - a). We don’t wait for her to deserve it – we love like Christ – it is love driven by grace
 - 1a). Grace = unmerited favor

2. What if a believing husband is married to an unbelieving wife

- A. What if she is worldly – carnal – selfish – LOVE HER! YES!

Charles Spurgeon in his book. A glorious church: “It is possible that some husbands might say, ‘How can I love such a wife as I have?’ It might be a supposable case that some Christian was unequally yoked together with an unbeliever, and found himself for ever bound with a fetter to one possessed of a morose disposition, of a froward temper, of a bitter spirit. He might therefore say, ‘Surely I am excused from loving in such a case as this. It cannot be expected that I should love that which is in itself so unlovely.’ But mark, beloved, the wisdom of the apostle. He silences that excuse, which may possibly have occurred to his mind while writing the passage, by taking the example of the Savior, who loved, not because there was loveliness in his Church, but in order to make her lovely.”

- 1). You love her by caring about her soul – you care about her soul by loving her
 - Showing her the breathtaking love of Christ – that can win her heart
 - 1a). As Christ’s love has won you – Christ love through you can win her
- 2). Husband your steadfast love when she doesn’t deserve it preaches a powerful sermon

Transition: So we are to love our wives as Christ loved the church

- A. This is much more than just being a bit nicer – warmer – what we want to turn this into
 - 1). But that falls far short of Agape – that chooses to love when the recipient is unlovely
 - a). That makes the choice to do what is best for them regardless of how they are acting
 - 2). Agape choose to control our emotions when we want to lash back – it loves instead
 - a). Modeled by Jesus on the cross “Father forgive them”
 - 1a). He wants what is best for them as they are mocking him
- B. In vs 25-33 Paul is going to define the specific characteristics of this love
 - 1). We’ll get through one today – pick up the rest next Sunday

The Husband’s Love Is to Be A Sacrificial Love

Eph 5:25 (ESV) Husbands, love your wives, as Christ loved the church *and gave himself up for her,*

1. Christ was willing to pay the ultimate price – death for his loved ones

- A. I think many men would say – I’d die for my wife – she’s attacked in a dark alley – I’m there!
 - 1). OK hero – let’s make this a bit more practical – how about dying daily – caring about her needs
 - a). Would you die to self – your desires to go shopping with her? Ouch
 - b). Would you give up your time to do some repairs around the house? OUCH!!!
 - 1a). One writer said – A leaky kitchen faucet may not seem like a big deal to you because your never in the kitchen – but our wives who are in there cooking etc. it means a lot

2. Truth is getting married is one the most sanctifying processes we can enter into

- A. It forces us to grow up – leave mommy and become a man
- B. It demands that we deal with our selfishness and become Christ-like by dying to self
 - 1). It involves sacrificing our schedule at times – not always but sometimes
 - 2). It means turning over the remote to the TV at times and watch a show she likes – What!
 - 3). It involves noticing her and listening to her – being attentive

Kent Hughes: Years ago in the Midwest the story was told of a farmer and his wife who were lying in bed during a storm when suddenly the funnel of a tornado lifted the roof right off their house and sucked their bed away with them still in it. The wife began to cry. The farmer called to

her that it was no time to cry. But she called back that she couldn't help it, as she was so happy. It was the first time they had been out together in twenty years!

- C. It forces you out of the center of everything and says another is as important – more important
- 1). We are to be like Christ and take care of her like he takes care of us

Transition: Let me just finish with a couple of scriptures

2. Philippians tells us how Christ loved those who are his

Php 2:5–8 (ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁽⁶⁾ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁽⁷⁾ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁽⁸⁾ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

- A. There is the kind of love Jesus loved his church with – loved you with
- 1). He is Lord of all – yet humbled himself to meet the needs of others – of you
Even when that meant paying the ultimate cost – physical death
 - 2). His love was sacrificial – a Golgotha love
 - a). A back scourging – hand and feet piercing – spear thrust into his side kind of love
 - b). All because he loved you and me
 - 3). His love was a serving kind of love – a foot-washing kind of love
 - a). Now he says – you know how I love – duplicate it with your wife

Transition: Men let me leave you with some homework – memorize 5 verses

- A. Live this out and you'll be doing fine

3. This kind of love means to live out 1 Cor. 13 in our homes – love here is Agape

1 Cor 13:4-8 (NIV) Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (5) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (6) Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (7) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (8) Love never fails.

- A. So husbands **AGAPE YOUR WIFE** – so let's do that again – putting in agape

1 Cor 13:4-8 (NIV) Agape is patient, Agape is kind. Agape does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. (5) It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. (6) Agape does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. (7) It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. (8) Agape never fails.

- B. There is the standard – I think we all need to grow – mature a bit
- 1). I know I have a long way to go – but I see the command therefore I must head in that direction
 - 2). I also see why this is what the Spirit-filled husband lives like – it takes divine power

COMMUNION

1. Thought of Agape love leads nicely into communion

- A. This is what drove Christ from glory to the cross

AGAIN: Php 2:5–8 (ESV) Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁽⁶⁾ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁽⁷⁾ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁽⁸⁾ *And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.*

- 1). Why? Because we were lovely – worthy? NO!

Here's who we were: Rom 3:10-18 (NIV) As it is written: "There is no one righteous, not even one; (11) there is no one who understands, no one who seeks God. (12) All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one." (13) "Their throats are open graves; their tongues practice deceit." "The poison of vipers is on their lips." (14) "Their mouths are full of cursing and bitterness." (15) "Their feet are swift to shed blood; (16) ruin and

misery mark their ways, (17) and the way of peace they do not know." (18) "There is no fear of God before their eyes."

- B. He came because we had a great need – we were in trouble
 - 1). He loved us when we least deserved it - when we were enemies Romans 5 says
 - 2). Agape acted to do what was best for us even though it cost him greatly
- 2. We hold in our hands two elements meant to help us remember**
 - A. We have the cup that reminds us of the shed blood of the cross
 - 1). The payment required to pay the debt we owe
 - B. We have the cracker that reminds us of the broken and bruised body
 - 1). He took on the full suffering we deserved
- 3. Pray and partake**