

“The Missing Ingredient” Part 3

Mount of Olives | September 21, 2025 | Ephesians 5:21-33

Pastor John Steward

Prayer of the Day

Lord Jesus, we ask You to give us all around peace in our mind, body, soul and spirit. We want You to heal and remove everything that is causing stress, grief, and sorrow in our lives. Please guide our path through the entirety of our life. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 5:25-33

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her, in order to make her holy by cleansing her with the washing of water by the word, so as to present the church to himself in splendor, without a spot or wrinkle or anything of the kind—yes, so that she may be holy and without blemish. In the same way, husbands should love their wives as they do their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hates his own body, but he nourishes and tenderly cares for it, just as Christ does for the church, because we are members of his body. "For this reason a man will leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two will become one flesh." This is a great mystery, and I am applying it to Christ and the church. Each of you, however, should love his wife as himself, and a wife should respect her husband.

Message Notes

Ephesians 5:28-33

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Proverbs 17:1

Better is a dry morsel with quiet than a house full of feasting with strife.

Proverbs 18:2

A fool takes no pleasure in understanding, but only in expressing personal opinion.

James 1:19

You must understand this, my beloved: let everyone be quick to listen, slow to speak, slow to anger

Proverbs 15:1

A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger.

Study Questions

Read Ephesians 5:22-33

ICEBREAKER – Getting started:

1. When you hear the word *love*, what picture, story, or song comes to your mind?
2. In your opinion, what makes a strong and lasting relationship or marriage?
3. Who is a couple (famous, family, or friends) you admire, and why?
4. What's one small act of love or kindness that has made a big difference in your life?

Based on Ephesians 5:22-33, answer the following questions:

OBSERVATION – What does the text say?

1. As you read **Ephesians 5:22-33**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?

1. What does Paul mean when he says, “Wives, submit to your own husbands as to the Lord” (v.22)? How should this be understood in the context of mutual submission (v.21)?
2. How is the relationship between husband and wife compared to the relationship between Christ and the church (v.23–24)? What can we learn from this comparison?
3. What responsibilities does Paul place on husbands in this passage (v.25)?
4. How does Paul describe Christ’s love for the church, and what actions demonstrate that love (v.25–27)?
5. What does it mean that Christ “sanctified” and “cleansed” the church with the washing of water by the word (v.26)?
6. How does the imagery of Christ presenting the church to Himself “without spot or wrinkle” (v.27) shape our understanding of holiness? How might this relate to marriage?
7. What practical implications are there for husbands in the command to “love their wives as their own bodies” (v.28)?
8. How does Paul connect the way a man cares for his wife with the way Christ cares for the church (v.29–30)?
9. Why does Paul quote Genesis 2:24 about marriage in this context (v.31)?
10. How does the “mystery” of Christ and the church deepen our understanding of marriage (v.32)?
11. What balance does Paul provide in v.33 when he summarizes the passage with the call for husbands to love and wives to respect?
12. How can this passage be lived out today in a way that honors both biblical teaching and reflects Christ’s love in a modern context?

APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?

1. How does Paul’s picture of marriage, modeled after Christ and the church, challenge the way you think about love and sacrifice in relationships today?
2. In what practical ways can husbands show Christlike love and self-sacrifice toward their wives in daily life?
3. What does it look like for wives to “respect” their husbands in a way that honors Christ, and how might that differ from cultural expectations?
4. How can both spouses work together to reflect Christ’s love to their family, church, and community through their marriage?
5. Even if you are not married, what lessons from this passage about love, humility, and respect can you apply to your other relationships?