

This week we will be studying **Ephesians 5:22-33**, instructions for husbands and wives. Some may consider these to be well-known scriptures, so they will breeze through and miss much, if not all, that God has to show them. Others will read it and get offended before they see just how rich and full the obedient life can be. My prayer is that you will be neither of these but that you will pray and ask God to **open your eyes, ears and heart to all he has for you**. Read verses 22-33 several times before starting the study guide.

1. Let's go back and read **Genesis 1:26-28**
2. In the beginning, when God created human beings, in whose likeness or image were they created?
3. What were the two distinct patterns that God created for humanity? **Vs. 27**
4. What was their position, in the scheme of all creation?
5. What did God give them that he did not give to any other living thing?
6. When God blessed them, what instructions did he give to man and woman?
Gen. 28 "Be _____ and _____ and _____ the earth and _____ it and have _____ over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over _____ living thing that moves on the earth" ESV Bible
7. God has order in all he does. His desire for our home and family is no different than his desire for Adam and Eve's home. We too are created in the image of God and are to come together and be fruitful and rule God's creation well. The resources of this earth are to be used wisely and well in order to continue as God has planned and ordained. We are not to exploit the earth by our authority, but use it as God has planned and provided. We must be careful in our marriage relationship, to carry out God's desire and plan faithfully.
8. Go through **Eph. 5:22-33**, with your highlighters and mark the words below. **Mark the pronouns too, this will take careful attention.**

wives-pink
Church – purple

husband or husbands - blue
love – green

Christ- yellow
submit – orange

The word **"subject or submit" (vs. 24) in the Greek is 5293 Hupotasso- it is a military term, to put under, to align under, to subordinate.**

9. To whom specifically are wives to submit, according to **verse 22**?
10. According to **verse 23**, in what way are we to submit?
11. What would this look like?

The word **"church" in the Greek is Ekklesia – the called out ones**

Eph. 1:20-23 that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, **21** far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but

also in the one to come. **22** And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

- 12. According to Eph. 1:21-23**, what did God do for Christ, when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand?

The word “**put**” in **Eph. 1:22** is the same **Greek word Hupotasso** that we have seen translated as submit in **Eph. 5:22 & 24**.

- 13. Read 1 Cor. 11:3**. What is clearly seen in this verse?

God is orderly. He has a plan. But I want you to understand that the head of every man is Christ, the head of a wife is her husband, and the head of Christ is God. **The Greek word for “head”, Kephale- anything supreme,** is used in **Eph. 1:22; 1 Cor. 11:3** and **Eph. 5: 23**.

- 14.** Now, after seeing the definition in the Greek for the words; church, head and submit; write **Eph.5:24-25**, in your own words, using the definitions we have just seen.

- 15.** What is God’s chain of authority, for believers in their home?

- 16.** One more time, what are wives required to do?

- 17.** Now Paul turns his attention to the husbands. What are they required to do? **Vs. 25**

- 18.** In what way are they to carry this out? Whose self-sacrificing example are they to follow?

- 19.** To what extent, did Christ go for the church? **Vs. 25**

- 20.** Would you have any reason for concern, about submitting to your husband, if he loved you with this kind of love?

- 21.** Does this sound like your marriage?

- 22.** Do you submit to your husband in all things, or only when you think he is right in his decision?

- 23.** Doesn’t that make you the authority?

- 24.** When you do not agree or think he is right in his decision, what subtle or not so subtle ways do you respond?

- 25.** In his marriage series Love and Respect, Dr. Emerson Eggerichs has an expression “The Crazy Cycle”. Many marriages get going on this cycle. The wife says, “I’ll respect and submit to him, when he loves me as he should.” The husband says, “I’ll love her, when she shows me a little respect.” Then round and round they go on this crazy cycle, wishing somehow it would end differently. This is the ultimate in foolishness. If you always do what

you've always done, you'll always get what you always got. It is foolish to think the outcome would be any different.

Who should be the first to jump off this cycle? Dr. Eggerichs says, "Whoever is the most mature." Are you and your husband on this cycle??

26. If this is you? Are you the mature one who will choose to do what is right, in order to see God move on your behalf?
27. Often, when we make these types of changes, it seems like forever before the other person's heart softens and we see some real change. Will you give God the freedom to move as he chooses or will you give him a deadline? I'll submit but only for _____ days? Months? Years? Or will you say, I will live in obedience to your plan God and leave my mate to your care.
28. Why do you suppose **verse 28** says, "He who loves his wife, loves himself"?
29. How do most people treat their own bodies? **Vs. 29**
30. How would you respond, to your husband loving you, as he does his own body?
31. Where you blessed with this instruction before you were married?
32. Do you think this is something all married couples should know, before they say their vows at the altar?
33. If you are married and have children, what example are you setting for your children? Do you want them to have the same kind of marriage you have?
34. How will they know, what God's best is for marriage, if you don't show them?
35. There are few things more powerful, than a living example. We can try to tell others of God's blessings; to those who walk in obedience to his commands, but when we live it out before them they see it for themselves.
36. How does **verse 31** describe a married couple?
37. In the New Testament, when it speaks of a mystery, it is referring to something previously hidden and now revealed. Marriage is a reflection of _____ and the _____.
38. We are the body, the church, and Christ is the head. Our marriages are to reflect this in our one flesh union. What was the mystery we studied in **Eph. 3: 3-6**?
39. What is the instruction given to husbands, in **verse 33**?
40. What is the instruction given to the wife, in **verse 33**?

In **verse 33**, the word **"respect" in the Greek, Phobeo means to treat with deference or reverential obedience, to treat with polite respect, putting another's interests first, and submission to their judgment, opinion or wishes.**

41. What are some ways you can improve, even if you have a good marriage of mutual love and respect?

42. If you are married or soon to be what are 3 qualities of yours, that your husband fell in love with, before you were married?

43. Would you say you are still known for these qualities?

44. If you are married or soon to be, what are 3 qualities of your husband's, that you fell in love with, before you were married?

45. Do you still tell him and show him how you admire these qualities in him?

Prov. 12:25 Anxiety in a man's heart weighs him down, but a good word makes him glad.

Some Bible translations say "worry or heaviness".

46. If you are married or soon to be what is on your husband's heart? What could you say that might lift his burden? Isn't that part of our being a helpmeet?

Prov. 15:23 To make an apt answer is a joy to a man, and a word in season, how good it is!

A timely word, one especially suited for the circumstance and well considered can make all the difference in how our mate feels.

47. What might you say, that will be a joy to your man's heart tonight?