

Husbands and Wives

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: Ephesians 5:22-33.
- B. Life is so constructed that we cannot find fulfillment without another person involved.
- C. We can only achieve our own satisfaction by looking for the benefit of others.
- D. We can only look to the benefit of others when Christ is involved.
- E. In relationships, we must be subject to one another.

II. The husband and wife relationship.

- A. This is the oldest battle of time.
- B. For peace, we must be subject to one another.
- C. Wives.

- 1. The basic word for subjection as relates to the wife is to keep oneself under authority.
- 2. The wife is to be the husband's helpmate for the husband.
- 3. She is to be the follower—and in this, she finds her fulfillment.
- 4. The reason that she is subject is because she has a previous and primary relationship with her Lord.
- 5. Headship means authority.
 - a. Jesus' relationship with the Father is a parallel.
 - b. There is a mutual sharing of honor.
 - c. Despite the identity of person, there is a difference of authority.
 - d. Headship is identity as to nature, cooperation as to work, honor as to person and subservience as to final decisions.
- 6. The wife is to be subject as the church is to Christ ideally.

D. Husbands.

- 1. Husbands are to love their wives as their own bodies and as Christ loved the church.

2. The husband's form of subjection is not to give in but to give up—giving himself up for his wife.

a. To sanctify her.

1. This is preparing her purpose.

2. We are to deal with our wives according to knowledge of what a woman is supposed to be.

3. The woman is to be a man's helper and contribute beauty.

4. The world desperately needs a quiet spirit that a woman can display.

5. The husband opens the door of opportunity for a woman to do this.

b. To present her in splendor. The husband is to give himself to honoring his wife.

c. To fulfill the mystery of his own being.

1. We are mysteriously a part of Christ.

2. This husband and wife actually do blend their lives together and become one.

3. The key is that a husband would love his wife as himself.

4. Each person is to fulfill his or her obligation to each other as to Christ regardless of what the other does.

Application questions:

1. What is biblical headship? Defend your answer.

2. Describe the responsibility of the husband. What stands out?

3. What is difficult about the obligations? How might these same obligations set a person free?
